

BUTLER COUNTY AREA COURT

BUTLER COUNTY  
AREA II COURT

MAR 16 2020

**FILED**

**IN RE COURTHOUSE OPERATIONS :  
UNDER EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES  
CREATED BY COVID-19  
(CORONOVIRUS) :**

Number:

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

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The Presiding and Administrative Judge of the Butler County Area Court, along with the other judges of the court, hereby issue an Administrative Order in response to the public health emergency created by the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID 19). There are multiple confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State of Ohio, including in Butler County, as well as deaths across the United States, which in response to this President Trump has declared a National Emergency and the Governor of the State of Ohio, Michael DeWine, has issued an Executive Order declaring a state of emergency, which among other things, limits large indoor gatherings. Local officials at the county level have followed suit. The Governor's declaration follows the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Interim Guidance," recommending that all employers consider how to best decrease the spread of COVID-19.

Given the severity of the risk posed to the public, the CDC mandate, the declaration of a National Emergency, and the Governor's mandate, it is hereby ordered that effective March 16, 2020:

(1) All civil and criminal matters scheduled before any judge or magistrate in the Butler County Area Court, and any associated court-imposed deadlines, are continued for a minimum of four (4) weeks, pending further order of the court, except the following:

- a. Criminal arraignments for incarcerated defendants.
- b. Proceedings involving incarcerated defendants.
- c. Preliminary hearings for defendants charged with felonies.
- d. Temporary protection orders.
- e. Administrative drivers' license suspension hearings.
- f. Search warrants.
- g. Pretrials in civil cases, which will be conducted by telephone. No attorney or pro se party shall attend a civil pretrial in person.

The assigned judge or magistrate retains the discretion to continue any of the above cases and to hear other cases that are subject to this order of continuance.

(2) With regard to criminal and traffic matters, due to the effect of the above health recommendations on the availability of counsel and court staff to be present in the courtroom, as well as the directive to avoid large gatherings of persons in close contact with each other, the continuances ordered by this Administrative Order will constitute a speedy trial time waiver pursuant to R.C. 2945.72(H) ("The period of any continuance . . . granted other than upon the accused's own motion). The judges of the Butler County Area Court specifically find that the public health interests are paramount and that the ends of justice are best served by this Administrative Order.

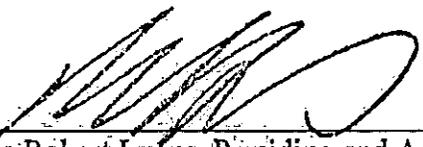
(3) Video and telephonic hearings and conferences shall be utilized to the extent possible.

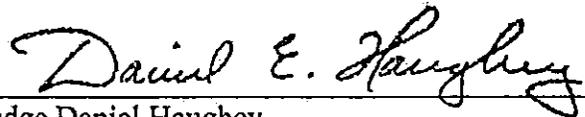
(4) This Administrative Order does not affect the Court's consideration of civil or criminal motions that can be resolved without oral argument.

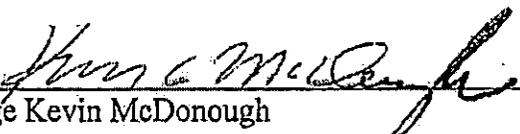
(5) In all civil, criminal, and traffic matters that are currently scheduled and affected by this order, counsel and any pro se parties shall contact the clerk of the court of the assigned judge prior to the currently scheduled date to obtain a future date and time.

(6) This Administrative Order is subject to modification depending on future orders from the Governor of the State of Ohio, the President of the United States, and the CDC.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
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Judge Robert Lyons, Presiding and Administrative  
Judge

  
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Judge Daniel Haughey

  
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Judge Kevin McDonough