



NICK A. SELVAGGIO, JUDGE

Champaign County Court of Common Pleas, General Division

Scott D. Schockling, Magistrate
Sandi G. Perry, Court Administrator

Janelle L. Bey, Judicial Assistant
Jennifer L. Demarco, Judicial Assistant
Christie L. Harrigan, Judicial Assistant

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – TWO PAGES

In light of the extraordinary events of the past week, including the unprecedented mandatory closure of schools, sporting and cultural events, Champaign County Common Pleas Court Judge Nick A. Selvaggio and Champaign County Municipal Court Judge Gil S. Weithman have met with our local criminal justice partners and decided to postpone and reschedule jury trials currently scheduled during the remaining weeks of March and the first half of April.

In deciding to reschedule jury trials, Judges Selvaggio and Weithman evaluated the need to preserve the constitutional right of criminally accused to a speedy trial against the scientific opinions of public health experts, while also considering the nature of the case involved and the existence of any threat to public safety.

Judges Selvaggio and Weithman are in agreement that every effort should be made to extend the current health and safety precautions taken by state officials to the Champaign County justice system.

At this time, Judges Selvaggio and Weithman are working with litigants to reschedule current jury trial dates to late April.

Over the next several weeks, the judges will continue to evaluate the circumstances of each case and the constitutional rights of the accused to determine if the particular case warrants the necessity of asking large numbers of prospective jurors plus the litigants and trial witnesses to appear over the course of two days for trial. If trial is necessary, the judges will do everything they can to minimize the risk of the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus to courtroom participants.

With the cooperation and consent of Champaign County Prosecutor Kevin S. Talebi, Judge Selvaggio has also pushed back the scheduled April session of the Champaign County Grand Jury to April 13th and modified the manner of summoning grand jurors in the effort to address the ongoing risk to the public health.

The judges continue to encourage prospective jurors who receive summons for jury duty to go to the respective court website (Judge Selvaggio – www.champaigncourt.org, Judge Weithman – www.champaigncountymunicipalcourt.com) for further updated information.

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