

IN THE CLEVELAND HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL COURT
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

In the matter of
TEMPORARY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE
COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH
CRISIS

GENERAL ORDER

The Judge of the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court makes the following Findings of Fact:

1. On March 9, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D “Declaring a State of Emergency” in response to the growing COVID-19 public health crisis.
2. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 to be a global “pandemic” requiring “urgent and aggressive action” to control the spread of the virus.
3. As of March 12, 2020, there were 5 confirmed cases in Ohio, 52 persons who have been tested for COVID-19 and have exhibited symptoms of respiratory illness and, within 14 days of symptoms starting, either traveled to areas with sustained transmission or been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court has developed a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis escalates. The continuum of responses is intended to protect public health, to maintain essential court functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Local Rules of the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court may be temporarily adapted to allow the Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. The security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.
3. The Court authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings.
4. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of “just cause” for continuances deemed necessary by the Judge or Magistrate on a case-by-case basis.
5. The Court will have the lawful authority, within constitutional limits, to do and direct to be done all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice for the duration of the declared public health emergency.

This "Temporary Order" is ordered to be served on the City's Prosecutor's Office, the assigned counsel appointment list, all litigants and attorneys with upcoming hearings for whom the Court has contact information, the Court's website, and area media outlets.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

March 13, 2020
DATE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Cosullo", is written above a horizontal line.

JUDGE