

IN THE VERMILION MUNICIPAL COURT  
VERMILION, OHIO

STATE OF OHIO

COURT ORDER

ERIE COUNTY

This Court issues this General Order in response to the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Ohio and across this country.

The Governor of the State of Ohio, Michael DeWine, has declared a state of emergency which, among other things, limits larger indoor gatherings

This Court authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for as many court actions or proceedings as is practicable.

This public health emergency is a finding of "just cause" for continuances deemed necessary by the Judge.

All civil pretrials will be held telephonically. Pending pretrials may be continued with telephone, fax or mail notice to the parties.

The Court will continue to accept filings of all complaints and motions however, it encourages individuals to file by facsimile or by mail. The courts fax is 440 204-2431. Civil filings shall only be accepted at the window of the clerk's office under unusual, compelling circumstances.

**Small Claims Cases:** Small claim hearings will be scheduled after May 5, 2020. Pending claims in the small claims division shall be continued to a specific date as determined in the discretion of the Court.

New claims filed in the small claims division between the date of this order and June 1, 2020, shall be set for hearing no sooner that eight weeks from the date of filing.

**Evictions Cases:** In accordance with the Ohio Supreme Court order, all eviction hearings are immediately stayed. We will reset hearings and resume a normal schedule of putouts as soon as feasible in light of the emergency situation.

All new eviction filings shall be scheduled after May 5, 2020, unless good cause exists to advance those dates.

Notice of new hearing dates will be issued by regular mail or by facsimile transmission.

In the event that a plaintiff has evidence that the premises are already vacant, a party may apply in writing for exception to the above stay as to evictions.

In the event of bona fide exigent circumstances that present an imminent material risk to health or safety to the parties or the public and which may only be addressed by prompt court action, a party may apply in writing for an exception to the above standards.

**Miscellaneous Hearings:** All pending debtor examinations, garnishments and revivor hearings shall be continued to a date to be determined by the Court. All parties shall be notified of the new date.

Currently, Vermilion Municipal Court is "Open with Restrictions" with the above provisions applicable. When the emergency subsides, the court shall enter an order declaring an end to the emergency and returning the court to its normal operations.

So ordered.



Judge W. Zack Dolyk

March 26, 2020