

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FAYETTE COUNTY, OHIO
PROBATE & JUVENILE DIVISIONS**

FILED
DAVID B BENDER

IN RE:

APR 30 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

PROBATE-JUVENILE JUDGE
FAYETTE COUNTY, OHIO

Judge David B. Bender of the Court of Common Pleas, Probate and Juvenile Divisions, does hereby make the following Findings of Fact and Administrative Order:

On March 9, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued an Executive Order 2020-01D “Declaring a State of Emergency” in response to the growing COVID-19 public health crisis.

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.

Based upon the Findings of Fact, the Probate and Juvenile Court will develop a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis escalates or increases in size and scope. The continuum of responses is intended to protect public health, to maintain essential court functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individual subject to the authority of the Courts.

The Court states that protocol has previously been established by the elected officials of the Courthouse which will continue until further notice, and are as follows: 1) Only parties to a case, or persons who have immediate business in the Courthouse, are permitted in the building; 2) Persons with a fever, or whom have been recently ill, are not permitted; 3) Social distancing of no less than 6 feet will be required; 4) No loitering at the clerk counter or employee desks; and, 5) Persons whom are not a party to a case, or whom are not here on immediate business, will be asked to exit the building.

THEREFORE, IT IS THE ORDER OF THIS COURT THAT effective May 1, 2020, and until further notice, this Court will require the wearing of a face mask or face covering of all persons conducting immediate business in any manner with the Probate or Juvenile Court, or for those who appear as a party to a case on the docket and during hearings in the courtroom.

FURTHER, the Judge and all Court staff will wear face masks during the course of the business day, and will require all persons with any of the aforementioned business, to wear a face mask or face covering for the duration of time that they are present on the second floor.

FURTHER, emergency hearings and any hearing deemed time sensitive by the Judge will be held as scheduled. Video or teleconference hearings may be implemented at the discretion of the Judge. 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.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



HONORABLE DAVID B. BENDER