

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, OHIO

IN RE: : CASE NO.: 20 MI 2
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER :
FOR CONTINUING
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER :
THE PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS :
CREATED BY “COVID-19” : TEMPORARY ORDER

Due to the Public Health Crisis and Pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus, (“COVID-19”), AND in response to which the Governor of the State of Ohio, Michael DeWine, has declared a state of emergency which, among other things, limits large indoor gatherings, closing of schools, restaurants and bars as issued March 12 and 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Declaration follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) “Interim Guidance,” recommending that all employers consider how best to decrease the spread of COVID-19 in this state and the severity of risk posed to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio State Supreme Court has issued further guidance as stated in the “Critical Event Preparation and Response for Local Courts” and in order to further public and health safety, the health and safety of Court personnel, counsel, litigants, other case participants, jurors, security personnel and the general public and in order to reduce the number of gatherings necessarily attendant to trial jury selection and hearings in all divisions of this Court, and in order to minimize travel by participants in Court proceedings, (particularly travel by public conveyance).

This Court issues the following ORDERS effective March 16, 2020:

1. The Court shall remain open for the conduct of official business, subject to the following:
2. The Staff in the Clerk’s Office will be available by telephone, mail will be received, and intake desks remain open for filings. The public is encouraged to continue utilizing Court services while following all applicable public health guidelines.

3. All civil and criminal matters scheduled for jury trial or hearing on or before April 30, 2020 pending before any judge or magistrate, including any associated deadlines, are CONTINUED, pending further Order of the Court;
4. As to criminal matters, due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of the above public health recommendations on the availability of counsel and Court staff to be present in the courtroom, the time period of the continuances implemented by this General Order shall be *tolled* for all speedy trial purposes, as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the continuances outweigh the best interest of the public and any defendant's right to a speedy trial;
5. Case-by-case exceptions to the continuances provided herein may be ordered at the discretion of the Court;
6. Pre-trial and status conferences shall be conducted by telephone. Plaintiff shall initiate the telephone call to the Court;
7. The Court may issue further Orders concerning future continuances of any matters as may be deemed necessary and appropriate. All jury selections and trials impacted by this Order will be reset by further Order of the assigned judicial officer;
8. Any request by the Parties in a criminal proceeding seeking case-specific relief from any provision of this Order shall contact the Court or file a motion;
9. Criminal matters such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings, and the issuance of search warrants, shall continue utilizing such procedures as they or the Court may direct which are consistent with the tenor of this Order and applicable law (including the use of video technology).
10. Sitting Grand Juries are authorized to continue to meet, subject to further Order of the Court;
11. Specialized Docket meetings are held in abeyance until May 6, 2020, or further Order. The respective "special court" teams and the Probation Office may, at their election, conduct informal sessions and/or supervision via video or teleconference as they deem appropriate.

12. Non-case related meetings and events scheduled to occur at a Court facility prior to May 1, 2020 shall be re-scheduled to a later date.
13. The Clerk's Office, Probation Office, and all other Court offices and services shall otherwise remain open with restrictions.

These modifications shall remain in effect until further Order.

JUDGE MICHELLE G. MILLER
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

JUDGE JOSEPH J. BRUZZESE, JR.
PRESIDING JUDGE