

STEUBENVILLE MUNICIPAL COURT
ORDER 2020-9 Date: August 7, 2020
ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19
(CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

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MUNICIPAL COURT
STEUBENVILLE OHIO

Steubenville 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. On March 11, 2020 the first “community transfer” positive case of COVID-19 in the State of Ohio was confirmed to be in Stark County. Since that time the virus has spread throughout Ohio and there have been confirmed cases of death.
4. Subsequently, more restrictive Orders have been issued by the Governor, including stay at home orders.
5. The Chief Justice has further given guidance to courts throughout the State in terms of daily operation during the course of this pandemic.
6. On March 17, 2020 this Court issued Order 2020-2 in response to directives that were in place at that time. This Order supersedes that Order.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Steubenville Municipal Court has developed a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis escalates even further. 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 Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency, otherwise, the Court will continue to be fully operational and will follow its’ Local Rules.
2. 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 as ordered.
4. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of “just cause” for continuances deemed necessary by assigned Judges and Magistrates 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.

6. The Court and common areas will be continually disinfected. The only individuals permitted to be inside of the Municipal Court Complex are staff, attorneys, defendants, and litigants who may appear. Use of mail, phone, text messaging, fax, and e-mail is encouraged.

7. Those appearing to pay unpaid fines and costs are encouraged to pay on-line.

8. The Court continues to make every effort to reduce foot traffic inside of the Municipal Complex and shall continue to make any orders necessary to protect the health and safety of the public.

This "Temporary Order" shall be posted in the Clerk's office and display case outside of the Courtroom.

So Ordered



John J. Mascio, Judge