

Tuscarawas County
Court of Common Pleas
General Trial Division

Date: March 17, 2020
To: Tuscarawas County Bar Association
From: Magistrate Karen Zajkowski
Subject: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Precautions

Effective Immediately and until April 6, 2020 when precautionary practices will be reassessed.

As a result of the Governor declaring a state of emergency related to the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Tuscarawas County Court of Common Pleas, is taking various precautions to assist in the containment of the virus and protect litigants and staff.

These precautions are as follows:

- **Domestic Relations Pre-trials, Status Conferences & Review Hearings:** The parties are to be directed not to appear for these hearings but to be available by telephone for communication. These will be conducted by phone or video on the scheduled date and time.
- **Domestic Relations Temporary Orders:** For all pending Temporary Order Motions, the Temporary Order will be issued on the basis of affidavits and according to Civil Rule 75(N).
- **Requests for video or phone conferencing** should be made in advance of the hearing to the magistrate.
- Parties are not to bring friends or family members to hearings unless they are required to testify in a trial or are serving as a victim advocate or another person providing support to the victim in a civil protection order case. **Deputies will limit access to those who have essential business with the court.** Protection Order hearings may be conducted by video.
- **Home visits** by Guardians ad Litem (GAL) are suspended. The GAL will follow guidelines established by the Ohio Department of Health.
- The Court will conduct supplemental cleaning/disinfecting of the court's public areas.