

FILED

MAY 01 2020

KEVIN H. TAYLOR
PROBATE/JUVENILE JUDGE
VAN WERT CO, OHIO

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
OF VAN WERT COUNTY, OHIO
PROBATE AND JUVENILE DIVISION

CASE NO. MISC. _____

OFFICE HOURS FOR THE VAN WERT COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT,
PROBATE AND JUVENILE DIVISIONS

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The Court hereby makes the following findings of fact:

1. There is currently a worldwide outbreak of a potentially dangerous and highly contagious respiratory disease, termed COVID-19 by the World Health Organization.
2. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized the spread of the disease as a global pandemic.
3. Federal, State and local governments have taken unprecedented steps to respond to the coronavirus and to protect the health and safety of Americans. It has been urgently recommended by nearly all qualified medical experts that communities take measures to assist in reducing the spread of COVID-19. It has been highly recommended that state and local governments implement rather drastic community-based interventions, such as school and daycare closures, even cancellations and extreme social distancing.
4. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine on March 9, 2020, issued Executive Order 2020-01 D, which declared a state of emergency in Ohio. Since that time, Governor DeWine and Dr. Amy Acton, head of the Ohio Department of Health, have taken additional steps to protect Ohioans, including ordering that all Ohio Schools take an extended break of several weeks, prohibiting mass gatherings, and ordering restaurants and bars to cease all operations other than delivery or take-out service.

5. On Sunday, March 22, 2020, Governor DeWine and Dr. Acton issued a state-wide “stay at home” order, to take effect at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2020. Among other things, that order resulted in the closure of all Ohio business deemed “non-essential” and required all persons, other than those engaged in “essential” occupations or other activities, to shelter in place in their homes. Pursuant to the order, the operation of state and local courts is classified as essential.
6. On April 2, 2020, Governor DeWine extended the “stay at home” order until May 1, 2020.
7. On April 6, 2020, the Van Wert County Common Pleas Court, Probate and Juvenile Court found that an emergency existed and ordered that effective April 6, 2020, the hours for the offices of the Probate Court and Juvenile Court would be from 9:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; that the Court would remain open for any hearing that are scheduled before 9:00 a.m. and after 3:00 p.m. on an as-needed basis; and that the Court would conduct as much business as possible by telephone or other electronic means.
8. On April 27, 2020, Governor DeWine ordered the beginning May 4, 2020, that general office environments may reopen if these businesses can meet mandatory safety requirements for customers and employees. Governor DeWine further ordered that general safe business practices must be followed including mandatory safety requirements for customers and employees as follows:
 - *Requiring face coverings for all employees, and recommending them for clients and customers as all times
 - *Conducting daily health assessments or self-evaluation of employees to determine if they should work
 - *Maintaining good hygiene at all times such as hand washing and social distancing
 - *Cleaning and sanitizing workplaces throughout the day and at the close of business or between shifts

*Limiting capacity to meet social distancing guidelines

THEREFORE, the Court orders effective April 6, 2020, that the Probate and Juvenile Court and its offices shall resume normal business hours from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday and 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday through Friday.

The Court further Orders that all employees of the court and all individuals conducting business with the court must comply with the following mandatory safety requirements:

*All persons who personally appear, including attorneys, shall wear face coverings while in the Probate and Juvenile Court outside the offices of the court, in the courtroom, and in the court offices.

*All employees, clients, customers, anyone conducting business with the court, including attorneys, or visitors shall comply with social distancing guidelines (maintain physical distance of at least six feet from others as practicable).

*All employees shall at all times use face coverings in the presence of another.

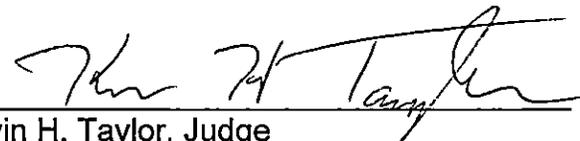
*Employees shall submit to daily health assessments or self-evaluations to determine if they should work.

*All employees shall maintain good hygiene at all times such as hand washing and social distancing.

*Workplaces throughout the day and at the close of business shall be subject to cleaning and sanitizing.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: May 1, 2020



Kevin H. Taylor, Judge
Van Wert Common Pleas, Probate and
Juvenile Divisions