

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA
CIVIL DIVISION

IN RE: :
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT : 672 of 2020 GP
DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL :
EMERGENCY OPERATING :
PROCEDURES : No. 2 ADM 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 17th day of March 2020, as authorized by the Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania dated March 16, 2020, In Re: General Statewide Judicial Emergency, and this Court's Declaration of Judicial Emergency dated March 16, 2020, it is hereby **ORDERED** and **DECREED** that the following actions be taken pursuant to Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952(B)(2):

1. All time calculations for the purposes of time computation relevant to court cases or other judicial business, as well as time deadlines, are suspended subject to constitutional restrictions.
2. Additional uses of advanced communication technology to conduct court proceedings is authorized subject to constitutional restrictions.
3. All provisions of this Order apply to cases scheduled during the pendency of the Declaration of Judicial Emergency.

It is further **ORDERED** and **DECREED** that courtrooms and court-related offices are closed for all non-essential functions until such time as safe operations of the court and its offices can be restored.

Motions Court

- Motions shall be regularly docketed and filed in accordance with Local Rules for Motions Court.
- Motions Court at 9:00 a.m. is suspended during the pendency of the Judicial Emergency. Attorneys of record or *pro se* litigants shall not appear for Motions Court and will be contacted by telephone by the assigned judge's chambers for disposition of all motions.

Civil Division

- Jury trials and non-jury trials proceedings are suspended pending further Order of Court.
- Civil matters will be held by telephone or video conference or postponed

Family Law

- Scheduled conferences and hearings in support, custody, equitable distribution, and divorce will be held by telephone or video conference or postponed.
- Emergency motions and civil bench warrant hearings will be heard by the daily Motions Court Judge by telephone or video conference.

Arbitration

- Arbitration proceedings shall be rescheduled by the Administrative Office of Fayette County Courts during the pendency of the Judicial Emergency.

Criminal Division

- All criminal court events, except as indicated below, will be postponed.
- Bail hearings will be heard by telephone or video conference.
- Criminal bench warrant contempt hearings will be scheduled by the daily Motions Court Judge by telephone or video conference.
- Pretrial conferences and formal arraignments will be rescheduled.

Protection from Abuse and Protection of Victims of Sexual Violence or Intimidation

- *Ex parte* Protection from Abuse matters will be heard by telephone or video conference by the assigned judge daily between 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.
- Temporary Protection from Abuse Orders will remain in full force and effect until a Final Protection from Abuse Order is entered.

- Final Protection from Abuse hearings will be scheduled after the period of Judicial Emergency.

Juvenile Delinquency

- Juvenile delinquency matters shall be handled on a case by case basis by telephone or video conference.
- When possible, juvenile delinquency matters will be handled by telephone or video conference. Parties should appear for all juvenile delinquency matters scheduled before the Court, unless otherwise notified.

Juvenile Dependency

- Permanency review hearings scheduled before the Court during the Judicial Emergency shall be postponed.
- Juvenile dependency matters shall be handled on a case by case basis by telephone or video conference.
- The Court shall continue to handle shelter care proceedings, pursuant to 42 Pa.C.S.A. § 6332 by telephone or video conference.
- The Court shall continue to issue orders for protective custody, pursuant to Pa.R.J.C.P. Rule 1210 by telephone or video conference.

Orphans' Court Division

- Orphans' Court proceedings shall be handled on a case by case basis by telephone or video conference or postponed.
- Emergency Motions for the Orphans' Court Division shall be heard by the assigned judge by telephone or video conference.

Magisterial District Courts

- All cases in the Magisterial District Courts are postponed.
- Execution of Orders for eviction or possession of residential properties in Fayette County are stayed.
- All time calculations relevant to Magisterial District Court proceedings located in the Pennsylvania Rules of Conduct, Office Standards for Civil Procedure for Magisterial District Judges and the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure shall be suspended.
- The Magisterial District Courts shall continue to hear Bail, Protection from Abuse, and Preliminary Arraignments, by telephone or video conference.
- Magisterial District Courts will not accept payments in-person during the pendency of the Judicial Emergency. For any party that is required to make a payment to a Magisterial District Court, the use of PAePay is suggested. Payments will be accepted by mail. A grace period for payments will be extended through the Judicial Emergency.

BY THE COURT,

Judge Nancy D. Vernon (for) P.J.
JOHN F. WAGNER, JR.,
PRESIDENT JUDGE BY DESIGNEE
NANCY D. VERNON, JUDGE

ATTEST:

Prothonotary