

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
COLUMBIANA COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT  
EAST LIVERPOOL MUNICIPAL COURT  
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO  
2020 MISC 00048

**FILED**  
COLUMBIANA COUNTY  
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
MAR 17 2020  
ANTHONY J. DATTILIO  
CLERK *AD*

GENERAL ORDER: )  
) JUDGMENT ENTRY  
TEMPORARY ORDER IN RESPONSE )  
TO THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) )  
PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS )

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The Judges of the General Division and Domestic Relations Divisions of the Columbiana County Court of Common Pleas, Judges of the Columbiana County Municipal Court and Judge of the East Liverpool Municipal Court make 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; and,
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.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Judges signing below, on behalf of their respective Courts have developed a continuum of flexible responses to help combat the continuation and/or escalation of the current public health emergency. The continuum of responses are necessary and consistent with and are intended to protect the 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, EFFECTIVE MARCH 16, 2020, and until further Order:

1. All jury trials, both criminal and civil, are hereby continued for thirty (30) days and will be re-scheduled through separate notice.
2. The Sheriff shall not transport inmates from the Columbiana County Jail or any state facility to any Columbiana County Court facility for thirty (30) days, unless deemed necessary by the Court.
3. All Domestic Relations or Juvenile hearings before a Magistrate will be and are hereby suspended for thirty (30) days with the exception of civil protection orders and emergency hearings.
4. As determined by a Judge assigned to a case, all non-essential hearings will be postponed and/or re-scheduled on a case-by-case basis.
5. All mediations now scheduled shall be and are hereby continued for thirty (30) days and will be re-scheduled through a separate notice.

6. As determined by a Judge assigned to as case, all civil matters may be conducted by phone or video conference, or other suitable means.
7. All persons scheduled to report to the Probation Department during the next thirty (30) days, shall report by telephone or as might otherwise be determined by the Probation Officer supervising them.
8. All specialty docket hearings shall be and are suspended.
9. The April 2020, session of the Columbiana County Grand Jury shall be and is hereby cancelled.
10. In the Court of Common Pleas, arraignments scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2020, shall be and hereby are postponed until Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.
11. In person arraignments in the Columbiana County Municipal Court and the East Liverpool Municipal Court shall be and hereby are continued until Monday, April 13, 2020. Video arraignments will continue during this period on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
12. The Local Rules of Columbiana County Court of Common Pleas, General and Domestic Relations Divisions, Columbiana County Municipal Court and East Liverpool Municipal Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
13. The security policies of the Columbiana County Common Pleas, General and Domestic Relations Divisions, the Columbiana County Municipal Court and the East Liverpool Municipal Court security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.
14. The Employee Handbook provisions of the Columbiana County Common Pleas, General and Domestic Relations Divisions, the Columbiana County Municipal Court and the East Liverpool Municipal Court, may temporarily be adjusted to maintain essential court operations and functions.
15. The Columbiana County Court of Common Pleas, General and Domestic Relations Divisions, the Columbiana County Municipal Court and the East Liverpool Municipal Court shall consider authorizing the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings.
16. The public health emergency deemed to be good cause pursuant to R.C. §2945.72(H) and/or State v. Talley, 2008-Ohio-6807 for any continuance deemed necessary by a Judge assigned to any case and/or for any matter continued or cancelled as a result of these Orders. The Court finds based upon the reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors; the risk to public health; the availability of counsel and court staff; and the Governor's Declaration of "A State of Emergency," the Court finds that pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2945.72(H) that the Court has authority to sua sponte continue any criminal case.
17. The Courts 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.

18. For purposes of reducing the number of persons within the courthouses, access to the Courts shall be limited to the parties participating in the case.

THE COST OF THIS FILING ARE WAIVED.

IT IS SO ORDERED



JUDGE SCOTT A. WASHAM



JUDGE MEGAN L. BICKERTON



JUDGE TIMOTHY J. MCNICOL



JUDGE KATELYN D. DICKEY



JUDGE DOMINIC A. FRANK

Date: March 16, 2020

cc: File  
Sheriff  
Prosecutor's Office  
Clerk of Courts  
Columbiana County Bar Association  
Probation  
Ohio Judicial Conference  
Columbiana County Commissioners