

2020 MAY 19 PM 3:07

JEANNE M. STEPHEN
CLERK OF COURTS

**In the Court of Common Pleas,
General Trial Division
Tuscarawas County, Ohio**

Case number: 2020 SP 01 0001

**May 19, 2020 Temporary Orders in Response to the
COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Public Health Crisis**

The Judges of the General Trial Division of the Tuscarawas County Court of Common Pleas make the following Findings of Fact:

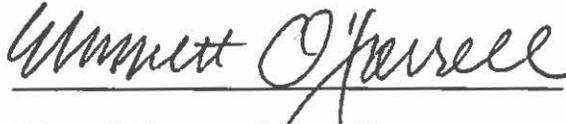
1. On March 9, 2020 Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D Declaring a State of Emergency in response to the growing COVID-19 public health crisis.
2. On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 to be a global pandemic requiring urgent and aggressive action to control the spread of the virus.
3. On March 16, 2020 the Tuscarawas County Board of Commissioners closed county buildings to general public access until April 6, 2020 or further order.
4. On March 22, 2020 the Director of the Ohio Department of Health issued a Stay at Home Order, excepting essential governmental functions, which include the official functions of judges, court personnel, jurors and grand jurors, and law enforcement.
5. As of this date, the State of Emergency has not been lifted.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the General Trial Division of the Court of Common Pleas issues this continuum of court responses. 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.

Given the severity of the health risk to the public and Governor's Declaration, the Court is ordering the continuation of the following orders:

1. The court will be closed to general public access but will maintain mission-essential court operations and functions subject to further orders of the Court, which may include limited public access.
2. The following court operations and functions are suspended until June 15, 2020:
 - a. Civil and criminal jury trials, in-person mediation conferences, in-person probation officer-offender meetings, and in-person treatment sessions.
3. The following court operations and functions will continue:
 - a. Hearings and conferences that can be conducted in-person using social distancing and other safety measures;
 - b. Hearings and trials that are conducted using telephonic and videoconference technology; and
 - c. In-person probation officer-offender meetings deemed necessary using social distancing and other safety measures.
4. The Court expects the attorneys to continue working their cases, and will consider any properly filed and supported motion for continuances and extensions of time that may be necessary due to relevant health and safety issues.
5. This order does not affect the Court's consideration of civil and criminal motions that can be resolved without oral hearings. The Court will continue to hold criminal pretrials by telephone and select criminal hearings. Mediation, probation-offender meetings, and offender treatment may be conducted by electronic means.
6. The Clerk of Court accepts fax filings to 330-343-4682 and emailed filings to clerkfiling@co.tuscarawas.oh.us. These will be accepted notwithstanding the published rule regarding court cost deposits. The Clerk is also accepting dropped off documents at the Clerk of Courts Title Office. Questions for the Clerk are directed to 330-365-3243.
7. Public access to court records remains open. All inquiries should be directed to the Clerk of Court.

8. When the public health emergency subsides, the court shall enter an order declaring an end to the emergency and resumption of normal operations.



Edward Emmett O'Farrell
Administrative Judge



Elizabeth Lehigh Thomakos
Presiding Judge

CC: Clerk of Court, Judge Linda Kate, Tuscarawas County Sheriff, Prosecutor, Public Defender, CSEA, Tuscarawas County Job and Family Services, Bar Association, COMPASS, Inc., Local Media

