

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF ERIE COUNTY, OHIO
GENERAL DIVISION

IN RE: TEMPORARY ORDER
IN RESPONSE TO THE
COVID-19 PUBLIC
HEALTH CRISIS

CASE NO: 2020-MS-

FILED
COMMON PLEAS COURT
ERIE COUNTY, OHIO
2020 MAR 13 PM 2:33
JUVADA S. WILSON
CLERK OF COURT

This Court issues this General Order in response to the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Ohio and across this country.

The Governor of the State of Ohio, Michael DeWine, has declared a state of emergency which, among other things, limits large indoor gathering.

The Governor's Declaration follows the Center for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") Interim Guidance recommending that all employers consider how best to decrease the spread of COVID-19, including the review of guidance from state and local officials.

In light of discussions with this Court's security committee, and the Director of Health for Sandusky and Erie County, it is hereby ORDERED that effective Friday, March 13, 2020:

- (1) All civil and criminal matters scheduled for jury trial before any judge in the General Division are CONTINUED until further order of the Court.
- (2) With regard to criminal matters, due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate panel of prospective jurors, and the effect of the above public health recommendations on the availability of counsel and Court staff to be present in the courtroom, the time period of continuances implemented by this General Order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, as the Court finds that the ends of justice served by ordering continuances under these severe circumstances outweigh the best interests of the public and a defendant's right to a speedy trial.

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- (3) Case by case exceptions to the continuances provided herein may be ordered at the discretion of the assigned judge after consultation with counsel.
- (4) This ORDER does not affect the Court's consideration of civil, criminal, or domestic relations motions that can be resolved without oral argument.

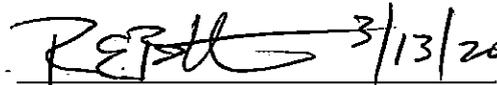
The Common Pleas Court shall remain open. The staff of each individual Judge and the Clerk's office will be available by telephone, mail will be received, and essential hearings will be had. Electronic filing will be continued through CourtView.

The public is instructed to utilize the courthouse, but in furtherance of the above-mentioned health guidelines, would ask that individuals only enter the courthouse as absolutely necessary.

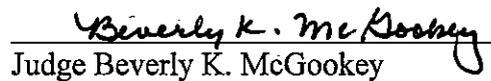
Counsel and/or parties are hereby instructed to call the Court prior to coming to Court if there is any question that your case may or may not be proceeding on the date previously assigned.

The Court will vacate or amend this General Order no later than April 14, 2020.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

 3/13/2020

Judge Roger E. Binette



Judge Beverly K. McGookey



Judge Tygh M. Tone