

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

IN RE: GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE : CASE NO: 2020-MS- 0120  
ORDER IN RESPONSE TO :  
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC :  
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2020 DEC 17 PM 3:09  
LUCY B. BIRCH  
CLERK OF COURT  
ERIE COUNTY, OHIO

Due to the continued public health emergency as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Erie County Common Pleas Court, General Division, hereby issues the following extension of its previous Administrative Orders filed on March 13, 2020 and April 14, 2020:

- (1) All pending civil and criminal jury trials are continued through March 1, 2021 or until further order of this Court.
- (2) All in person civil proceedings, except emergency actions, are continued through March 1, 2021 or until further order of this Court. Civil proceedings may be conducted by phone/Zoom/WebX, or otherwise.

Should an assigned judge want an in person civil proceeding, that will be left to the sound discretion of that assigned judge. (All currently scheduled probate hearings during this time period shall proceed unless the Court notifies the parties otherwise.)

- (3) All sheriff sales and all other orders of sale that have been issued or are subsequently filed are stayed until March 1, 2021 or until further order of this Court.

All current or future writs of possession are hereby stayed until March 1, 2021 or until further order of this Court.

- (4) All domestic relations matters shall be handled pursuant to the discretion of the assigned judge and within the guidelines set forth by the CDC.
- (5) With regard to criminal matters, due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate panel of prospective jurors during this public health crisis, and the inability of the Court to function at normal capacity being at risk (1) the Governor's orders to restrict the amount of people at gatherings that hinders the Court from securing jury pools, and (2) Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice's advisements/concerns about conducting Court proceedings during the pandemic, the time period of continuances

implemented by this General Order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act and RC §2945.71.

Pursuant to §2945.72(H) the Court finds that the health and safety of the community, as well as the Court's staff members, outweighs the interests of the parties and the public to a speedy trial, finds good cause to continue jury trials to protect public health.

The Common Pleas Court will remain open. The Probate Court will remain open. The staff of each individual Judge and the Clerk's office will be available, albeit on a limited basis live, but also available via phone. Mail will continue to be received. Essential hearings shall be heard at the discretion of the assigned judge to the case. Electronic filing will continue through CourtView.


The public may utilize the courthouse but, in furtherance of public safety, only individuals with business before the Court will be admitted.


Counsel and/or parties shall call the Court prior to coming to the courthouse if there is any question if the case is proceeding or their attendance is required.

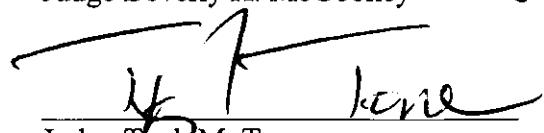
All prior Administrative Orders pertaining to this public health crisis are in full force and effect.

The Court will revisit the terms of this order as necessary and prior to March 1, 2021.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

 12/15/2020  
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Judge Roger E. Binette

  
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Judge Beverly K. McGookey

  
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Judge Tygh M. Tone  
Administrative Judge