

# Press Release: Common Pleas Court Guidance

March 16, 2020

This release is being issued to provide information to the public who may have business with the Courts. As you are aware we are all dealing with the constantly evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We want to assure the public that we are monitoring events closely, seeking the advice of the informed professionals and taking all appropriate and necessary precautions to protect all people who come to, work at, or need access to the Common Pleas Court in this County.

The health experts have emphasized that we must do everything we can to slow the spread of the virus in our Community. This means anyone who is ill, has been around someone who is ill or who otherwise been exposed to the virus through travel should voluntarily avoid all public places including the County Courthouse. We are asking for the public to assist us in this by avoiding any non-essential contact with the Court while the pandemic abates.

If you have a current case with the Court and are scheduled to appear in the next few weeks, and you are ill, have been ill in the past two weeks or have been around anyone who has been ill please call your attorney and inform them of your circumstances, they will instruct you on what to do. If you are not represented you can call the involved Court to request re-assignment of your case. You will be assigned a new Court date to permit any possible illness and contagiousness to pass.

If you have a current case with the Court and are scheduled to appear in the next few weeks, and are unsure of the status of the hearing, please contact your attorney to see if the matter will proceed as scheduled. If you do not have an attorney, you can contact the Court where your case is assigned. You will be informed of any changes to the scheduling of your case. Those changes in scheduling may include appearing by phone or video conference for the scheduled event.

*Erie County Common Pleas Court-*

General/Criminal/Domestic Relations Divisions-

Cases assigned to Judge Tygh Tone

Call 419-627-7731

Cases assigned to Judge Roger Binette

Call Lori Rickenbaugh or Vicki Fitzgerald at 419-627-7732

Probate Division-

Judge Beverly McGookey Call 419-627-7754

Juvenile Division-

Judge Robert DeLamatre Call 419-627-7782

Please be advised, If you appear at the Courthouse, you will be subject to normal security screening. Further, you may be subject to additional screening for illness or exposure and you may be ordered to leave the premises at the discretion of the Court or security staff.