

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: EXTENSION OF JUDICIAL : EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 2020-13
EMERGENCY FOR ALL COURTS : 43 MM 2020
OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL :
DISTRICT DUE TO EXIGENT :
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY :
COVID-19 :

ORDER

AND NOW, this 27th day of April, 2020, pursuant to the Second Supplemental Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania dated April 1, 2020, extending the period of the declared judicial emergency through April 30, 2020, and empowering the President Judge of this Court to declare a judicial emergency through May 31, 2020, it is ordered that the period of judicial emergency for all courts (Common Pleas and Magisterial District Courts) of the Seventh Judicial District is extended to May 31, 2020, and the previous Emergency Orders of this Court are extended and amended as follows:

Emergency Orders No. 2020-01, 2020-04, 2020-05, 2020-06 and 2020-09 are amended to state that unless extended by further order of court, the said orders shall expire on May 31, 2020, with all other provisions of the said orders remaining as entered.

Emergency Order No. 2020-02 is amended to state that unless extended by further order of court, this order shall expire on May 31, 2020, with all other provisions of this order remaining as entered, EXCEPT as follows:

3. Criminal Hearings

All Preliminary hearings in criminal cases in which the defendant is not incarcerated shall be continued generally to a date after May 31, 2020. However, should all parties agree thereto, preliminary hearings in such matters may be held using Advanced Communication Technology.

Pursuant to the Order of the Supreme Court dated March 18, 2020, preliminary hearings in criminal cases in which the defendant is incarcerated may be held using Advanced Communication Technology.

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5. Traffic and Non-Traffic Offense Hearings

All hearings concerning Traffic and Non-Traffic offenses shall be continued to a date after May 31, 2020.

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6. Civil Action Hearings

All civil action hearings shall be continued to a date after May 31, 2020.

7. Landlord-Tenant (Actions for Possession of Real Property) Hearings

All Landlord Tenant action hearings shall be continued to a date after May 31, 2020.

Requests for Orders of Possession resulting from judgements entered in Landlord-Tenant Actions may be filed. However, any execution on an Order of Possession is stayed to a date after May 31, 2020, effective immediately.

8. Indirect Criminal Contempt Hearings

All indirect criminal contempt hearings scheduled to be heard on or before June 16, 2020, shall be scheduled June 17, 2020.

Emergency Order No. 2020-03 is amended to state that unless extended by further order of court, this order shall expire on May 31, 2020, with all other provisions of this order remaining as entered, EXCEPT as follows:

All courts in the Seventh Judicial District (Common Pleas Court and Magisterial District Courts) are, EXCEPT for the directives and exceptions listed below, CLOSED to the public beginning at close of business on March 19, 2020 and lasting through at least May 31, 2020.

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II. Courts of Common Pleas

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- 4. Jurors SHALL NOT REPORT for jury duty at any time prior to August 3, 2020.

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III. Suspension of Time Calculation

As permitted by the Supreme Court Order of March 18, 2020, and the second supplemental order of April 1, 2020, all time calculations for purposes of time computation relevant to court cases or other judicial business, as well as time deadlines, are SUSPENDED through May 31, 2020, subject to additional orders of this Court or of the Supreme Court. In all events, any legal papers or pleadings which are required to be filed between March 19, 2020, and May 31, 2020, SHALL BE DEEMED to have been timely filed if they are filed by June 1, 2020, or on a later date as permitted by this Court, the Supreme Court or other appropriate appellate Court.

IV. Magisterial District Courts

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- 5. In the event any scheduled payment is missed, or default of a payment plan previously imposed by the court occurs, the Magisterial District Court SHALL ISSUE a hearing notice scheduling a payment determination hearing to be held after May 31, 2020, or such date as shall be subsequently specified. Such missed payment or default SHALL NOT RESULT in the issuance of an arrest warrant for failure to make payment, nor shall the non-payment result in driving privileges being suspended prior to such hearing.

V. Landlord/Tenant

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... However, any execution on an order of possession is stayed to a date after May 31, 2020, subject to further orders.

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VII. Specific Provisions for Protection from Abuse Matters

1. It is further ORDERED AND DIRECTED that, for purposes of hearings pursuant to 23 Pa. C.S. Section 6107 of the Protection from Abuse Act, all time from the date of this Order until May 31, 2020, shall not be considered business days.

2. Any Orders granting temporary relief under the Protection from Abuse Act entered prior to May 31, 2020, shall schedule a further hearing on the matter for June 3, 2020.

3. Any Orders granting hearings under the Protection from Abuse Act entered prior to May 31, 2020, that do not contain or accompany an Order granting emergency or temporary relief pending the hearing shall schedule a hearing for June 10, 2020.

4. Any Order previously entered that schedules a hearing under the Protection from Abuse Act is hereby amended to change the date of the hearing set forth in that Order to the date of June 3, 2020.

5. Any Order previously entered that granted temporary relief under the Protection from Abuse Act which expires on any day from March 19, 2020 through May 31, 2020, is hereby extended to and effective until June 3, 2020.

Emergency Order No. 2020-08 is amended to state that unless extended by further order of court, this order shall expire on May 31, 2020, with all other provisions of this order remaining as entered, EXCEPT as follows:

A. CIVIL TRIALS AND ARBITRATIONS

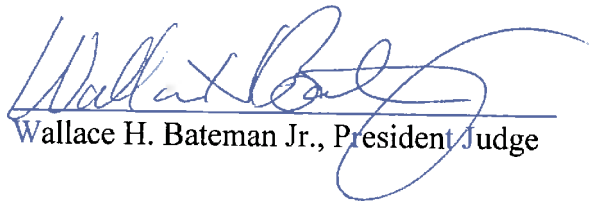
1. All civil jury trials are continued generally. No civil jury trials will be held prior to August 3, 2020. Jurors shall not report for jury duty any time prior to August 3, 2020.

2. All civil arbitrations are continued generally. Arbitrations will be relisted on future dates, to be determined.

B. CRIMINAL TRIALS

1. All criminal jury trials are continued generally. No criminal jury trials will be held prior to August 3, 2020. Jurors shall not report for jury duty any time prior to August 3, 2020.

BY THE COURT:



Wallace H. Bateman Jr., President Judge