

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

CIVIL DIVISION

FILED

APR 23 2020

L. H. HOUGH
PROTHONOTARY

IN RE:)
27TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT)
DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL) No. 2020-1
EMERGENCY) 24 W.M. 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this ~~23RD~~RD day of April, 2020, pursuant to the Second Supplemental Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in Nos. 531 and 532 of the Judicial Administration Docket, *In re: General Statewide Judicial Emergency*, dated April 1, 2020, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED as follows:

1. The Declaration of Judicial Emergency in the 27th Judicial District is extended through the close of business on May 29, 2020.
2. The Washington County Courthouse, Family Court Center, and all magisterial district courts shall remain CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC as to non-essential functions through the close of business on May 29, 2020, and will re-open to the public on June 1, 2020, subject to the provisions of this Order.
3. Time calculations for the purposes of time computation relevant to court cases or other judicial business, as well as time deadlines, are suspended for the time period through May 29, 2020, consistent with the Orders of the Supreme Court at Nos. 531 and 532 of the Judicial Administration Docket. Any legal papers or pleadings which are required to be filed during the time covered by the Declaration of Judicial Emergency (March 16 through May 1, 2020), SHALL BE DEEMED to have been timely filed if they are filed by the close of business on June 1, 2020.

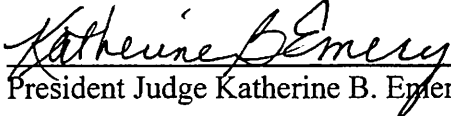
4. Pennsylvania Rule of Criminal Procedure 600 is SUSPENDED for the duration of the Declaration of Judicial Emergency in accordance with the Orders of the Supreme Court at Nos. 531 and 532 of the Judicial Administration Docket. The first available date for a jury trial shall be June 8, 2020.
5. All current and valid temporary orders in Protection from Abuse Act cases shall be extended through the close of business on June 15, 2020. Final hearings may be scheduled as set forth *infra*, by the common pleas judges assigned to hear Protection from Abuse Act cases.
6. Beginning May 11, common pleas judges are permitted to schedule a limited number of non-essential matters for in-person proceedings if Center for Disease Control and Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines for social distancing and other practices related to the COVID-19 pandemic are implemented and followed. However, THE PREFERENCE is for the continued use of advanced communications technology to conduct non-essential matters. Judges shall coordinate with each other and Court Administration to ensure that in-person proceedings are kept to an acceptably safe minimum. Large gatherings of employees, attorneys, parties, and other case participants are NOT PERMITTED inside judicial facilities.
7. Members of the public shall wear masks inside court facilities (excepting those individuals with medical conditions or children under 2 years of age), must wash or sanitize their hands upon request, and may be required to wear gloves. The Sheriff, or his designee, shall have the authority to bar entry or remove individuals that do not comply this provision. Staff shall wear protective equipment as directed. To the extent possible,

the County of Washington shall supply the protective equipment necessary to effectuate this Order.

It is further ORDERED that all other provisions contained in the Administrative Orders issued by this Court at the above-captioned docket numbers that are not in conflict with this Order shall remain in full force and effect.

The District Court Administrator is DIRECTED to post a copy of this Order on all entry doors of the Washington County Courthouse and all magisterial district courts, and to post a copy on the Court's website at www.washingtoncourts.us. A copy of this Order shall also be transmitted to the Washington County Bar Association for distribution to its members.

BY THE COURT:

 _____, P.J.
President Judge Katherine B. Emery