

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: 49th Judicial District – Actions Pursuant
to Declaration of Judicial Emergency

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CP-14-MD- 495-2020

2020 MAR 18 12:57
JUDICIAL RECORD
CENTRE COUNTY PA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 18th day of March, 2020, pursuant to this Court's Declaration of Judicial Emergency, dated March 16, 2020 through April 14, 2020, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. The Court has issued its Declaration of Judicial Emergency to address the current and expanding outbreak of COVID-19 infections in Pennsylvania, the anticipated expansion of that outbreak into the 49th Judicial District, and the need to prevent or at least minimize the spread of COVID-19 within the County.
2. The Court previously issued a memorandum on March 17, 2020. The relevant provisions in that memorandum will be restated herein.
3. To the greatest extent possible, and subject to the consent of the relevant parties, all proceedings during the judicial emergency, whether before the Court of Common Pleas or any Magisterial District Court of the 49th Judicial District, will be conducted by means of advanced communication technology, primarily video conferencing and telephone.
4. For the duration of the judicial emergency within the 49th Judicial District, time calculations for the purposes of time computation relevant to court cases or other judicial business, as well as time deadlines, are suspended subject to constitutional restrictions.
5. The operation of Rule of Criminal Procedure 600 is suspended. The purport of the suspension will be that the time period of the judicial emergency shall be excluded from the time computation under Rule 600.

6. All Court proceedings are cancelled, including the following, and shall be rescheduled:
 - a. Criminal pretrial conferences and inmate pretrial conferences;
 - b. Criminal and Civil Jury Selection;
 - c. Central Court, except for inmates whose cases will be heard through videoconferencing;
 - d. ARD Court;
 - e. CYS permanency review hearings;
 - f. Summary Appeal hearings;
 - g. Sentencing hearings;
 - h. Final PFA hearings. Temporary PFAs shall remain in effect;
 - i. Support Contempt hearings and de novo hearings;
 - j. Arbitrations;
 - k. Custody Court;
 - l. Probation/Parole Revocation Hearings;
 - m. Arraignments.
7. DRO conferences shall be held by telephone or continued if proper documentation has not been mailed or faxed to that office.
8. Custody conferences may proceed at the discretion of the Judge, but only through telephone conferences. No parties or counsel shall appear.
9. All in person supervised visitation, or regular visitation conducted by Centre County CYS, Family Intervention Crisis Services or Youth Service Bureau shall proceed only through telephone, Facetime or Skype.
10. The Prothonotary shall temporarily suspend the use of attorney mailboxes in its office, and will mail all documents to attorneys.
11. Probation offices and Juvenile Probation offices shall conduct supervisory visits with clients by advanced communication technology;

12. All Magisterial District Judges' hearings, unless deemed emergencies, shall be cancelled.
13. The following Court proceedings are considered emergency proceedings and will be handled either by telephone, video conferencing or in person as necessary:
 - Preliminary Emergency Injunctions or Temporary Restraining Orders
 - Bail Payment and Administration
 - Emergency Protection From Abuse Ex Parte Proceedings
 - Emergency Custody Petitions
 - Emergency Juvenile Delinquency Hearings
 - Emergency Dependency Hearings and Shelter Care Hearings
 - Emergency Guardianships
 - Indirect Criminal Contempt Arraignments
 - Preliminary hearings where the Defendant is incarcerated. The Defendant shall appear at said hearing by video conference.
14. The Court may schedule necessary proceedings regarding criminal and/or civil matters at the Court's discretion.
15. Only the litigants, witnesses, support personnel for victims, and counsel will be permitted in any court proceeding.
16. People entering the Courthouse shall be monitored by the Deputy Sheriffs to determine their business with the Court.
17. This Administrative Order shall be effective immediately, and shall continue in effect until the earlier of April 14, 2020 or termination by the Court.

BY THE COURT:



Pamela A. Ruest, President Judge