

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

---

To: All interested parties

From: Patrick J. Lang, Administrative Judge

Date: March 13, 2020

Re: Court operations during COVID-19 public health emergency

---

This Notice is being issued to address operations of the Athens County Common Pleas Court in light of the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, as declared by Governor DeWine.

**The Court will remain in operation during normal business hours throughout the duration of the emergency, as will the Clerk of Court's Office.**

However, efforts are being taken to minimize the necessity of persons to visit the courthouse during this emergency. Effective immediately, the following Temporary Orders will remain in effect until at least April 1, 2020:

- 1) The Athens County Grand Jury is suspended until further Order of the Court. Grand jurors are not to report for the previously scheduled session on March 23. Grand jurors will be contacted directly by the Court in the event that they need to appear at a later date.
- 2) No jurors will be summoned to Court, nor will any jury trials be held.
- 3) All scheduled in-person hearings in the General and Domestic Relations Divisions will be CONTINUED. Persons with court dates prior to April 1 should not report to Court. Hearings will be rescheduled. Some hearings may be held telephonically, to be arranged on a case-by-case basis. Those persons represented by counsel should call their attorneys.
- 4) Persons summoned to appear for Arraignments on Wednesday, March 25, should not report to Court. Instead, plan to appear on Wednesday, April 1, unless otherwise advised by the Court or counsel.

Any persons with business before the Court who are represented by counsel should contact their attorneys for further guidance regarding scheduling.

Prior to April 1, 2020, the Court will issue further guidance regarding whether these Temporary Orders will be extended, modified or allowed to expire.