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2020 MAR 17 AM 9:39

CARROLL COMMON PLEAS
WILLIAM R. WOHLWEND

**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
GENERAL DIVISION
CARROLL COUNTY OHIO**

**TEMPORARY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19
(CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

The General Division of the Carroll County Court of Common Pleas makes the following

Findings of Fact:

1. On March 9, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D “Declaring a State of Emergency” in response to the growing COVID-19 public health crisis.
2. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 to be a global “pandemic” requiring “urgent and aggressive action” to control the spread of the virus.
3. On March 16th, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control issued public recommendations that people do not hold gatherings of 10 people or more and that people age 65 and older do not leave their homes.
4. The Court anticipates that both the state government and federal government will continue to create more safety restrictions as this pandemic unfolds.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the General Division of the Court of Common Pleas has developed a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis escalates. The continuum of responses is intended to protect public health, to maintain

essential court functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

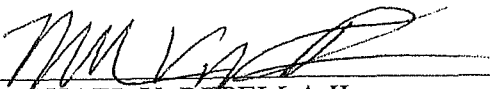
THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The General Division Local Rules of Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. The General Division security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.
3. The General Division Employee Handbook provisions may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential court operations and functions.
4. The General Division authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings.
5. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary on a case-by-case basis.
6. All civil pre-trials are hereby ordered to be converted to telephone pre-trials. The Court will contact counsel and pro-se litigants to arrange for the phone calls.
7. All civil and criminal jury and bench trials scheduled between the time this order is filed and April 17th, 2020, are hereby cancelled and converted to telephone pre-trials.
8. All criminal pre-trials are to be conducted between the Prosecutor's office and defense counsel, the defendants do not need to be present, however they must be available via telephone. The Prosecutor's office is to notify the court of any necessary court hearings and whether or not the defendant's presence will be required. A decision on conducting those hearings will be made on a case by case basis.

9. The Court will have the lawful authority, within constitutional limits, to do and direct to be done all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice for the duration of the declared public health emergency.

10. The Court has already issued an order concerning public access to the court house and will adjust the order if necessary.

11. The Court will review this order no later than April 17th, 2020, to determine if changes are necessary or if the order can be terminated.



MICHAEL V. REPELLA II
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE