

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, OHIO  
JUVENILE AND PROBATE DIVISION

**FILED**

IN THE MATTER OF THE COVID-19  
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

JOURNAL ENTRY

MAR 17 2020

TERRE L. VANDERVOORT  
PROBATE & JUVENILE JUDGE  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Fairfield County Juvenile and Probate Court Judge Terre L. Vandervoort makes the following findings:

1. On March 9, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D declaring a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 (also known as “the coronavirus”) pandemic.
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 16, 2020, the Fairfield County Commissioners urged Fairfield County agencies to “limit gathering and physical contact while continuing services of the government in a reasonable way.”

Based on these findings, the Fairfield County Common Pleas Court, Juvenile and Probate Division, find it necessary to amend its Local Rules and modify its policies to accomplish two overarching goals: (1) protect its employees, litigants, and the community as a whole and (2) administer justice and protect individuals’ constitutional and statutory rights. Therefore, it is hereby ORDERED that:

1. The Fairfield County Common Pleas Court, Juvenile and Probate Division Local Rules may be temporarily modified to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. The Fairfield County Common Pleas Court, Juvenile and Probate Division policies may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential court operations.
3. Fairfield County Common Pleas Court, Juvenile and Probate Division authorizes the use of videoconferencing equipment and alternative technologies for all actions and proceedings.
4. Fairfield County Common Pleas Court Juvenile and Probate Division has determined the COVID-19 public health emergency is a good cause for continuances.

5. The Fairfield County Common Pleas Court, Juvenile and Probate Division will have the lawful authority, within constitutional limits, to do or direct to be done all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice and public safety for the duration of the declared state of emergency.

It is so **ORDERED**.



**JUDGE TERRE L. VANDERVOORT**

Copies to:

**CARRI BROWN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**CHARLES ELSEA, FAIRFIELD COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE**