

FILED

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, VINTON COUNTY, OHIO

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In re: Courtroom Procedure During the Week of 3-17-2020 through 3-21-2020

Entry/Order


Lisa A. Hilliland
VINTON COUNTY
CLERK OF COURTS

The Nation and State of Ohio are in uncertain times due to the corona virus.

The Vinton County Court of Common Pleas has many criminal cases set for various hearings during the week of 3-17-2020 through 3-21-2020.

Due to the uncertainty of the possible health of people incarcerated, people coming to court, friends, relatives, etc. of the Defendants/people involved in these criminal hearings, the Court, in the interest of public safety, hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. That the only people who are required to attend any criminal hearing set in the Court of Common Pleas during the week of 3-17-2020 through 3-21-2020 are the Court, Court Reporter, the Prosecutor and Defense Counsel.
2. However, whenever possible, Defendants should be available to discuss this matter with counsel by telephone.
3. This Court realizes the very important right for Defendants to attend any and all hearings concerning them.
4. Because of the corona virus scare and the possibility of it spreading this Court feels that having only the Court, Court Reporter, the Prosecutor and Defense Counsel appearing at the hearings is the most effective way at the current time to possibly avoid the spread of the disease while keeping the court process moving.
5. Thus, if cases cannot be resolved without the Defendant being present, the Court reserves the right of all Defendants to appear at hearings in the future once things involving the corona virus settles down.
6. Until such time as hearings can be set with the Defendants being present (unless cases can be concluded without their presence after consultation with their attorney), speedy trial rights in these cases heard in the above captioned week are hereby ORDERED tolled by this Court with the Court specifically finding that the ends of justice served by ordering continuances and/or this procedure outweigh the best interest of the public and defendant's right to a speedy trial.
7. Case by case exceptions to any continuances provided herein may be ordered at the discretion of the Court after consultation with counsel.
8. This ORDER does not affect the Court's consideration of civil or criminal motions that can be resolved without oral argument.
9. The Court of Common Pleas and Clerk of Court's Office will be available by telephone, mail will be received, and intake desks remain open for filings. The public is encouraged to continue utilizing Court services while following all applicable public health guidelines.
10. The Court will re-evaluate this policy on or about March 24, 2020.
11. IT IS SO ORDERED.



N. Robert Grillo

Dated: March 13, 2020