

COMMON PLEAS COURT  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO

FILED  
CLERK OF COURTS  
2020 MAR 13 PM 3: 25  
WASHINGTON CO. OHIO

:  
:  
IN RE: TEMPORARY COURT PROCEDURES : Case No. 20MISC15  
DURING THE CORONA VIRUS : Judge Mark Kerenyi  
(COVID-19) PANDEMIC :  
:  
:

The Washington County Common Pleas Court, General Division, issues the following temporary procedures due to concerns of the spread of the Coronavirus. The intent of these procedures is to limit the need for face-to-face interaction at the Courthouse. The Court will remain open and cases should proceed through the normal process.

1. All criminal, domestic and civil pretrials, status conferences and civil final settlement conferences will be by phone. Attorneys and unrepresented parties are responsible for calling the Court at the appointed time. Parties shall not appear in person at the Courthouse.
2. All criminal final pretrials will be by phone. Prosecutors and defense counsel need to have already talked and tried to work out a resolution. If approved by the Court, the bailiff will type up the written change of plea form and email it to the prosecutor and defense counsel. Defense counsel will then review the form with the defendant in whatever manner they think best. A change of plea hearing will be scheduled in open court and the defendant will sign the plea and the plea will proceed as normal.
3. The Court intends to issue fewer warrants and continue arraignments on low risk offenses when the defendants are not served with summons prior to arraignment dates.
4. The Court is inclined to grant motions to continue criminal jury trials filed by defense counsel with speedy trial time waivers.
5. Civil jury trials will be continued until at least May, absent exceptional circumstances.

6. Grand jury will proceed as normal.
7. The Court and Clerk of Courts will accept short emailed motions and entries without original signatures. These short entries would include continuances. Complaints, new filings, Motions for Summary Judgment, etc. will be mailed to the Clerk of Courts as in the past.
8. The Court is looking into conducting bond hearings remotely, if the technology becomes available to the Court.
9. Standard Parenting Time Orders are modified as follows: Spring Break parenting time pursuant to Court Orders shall mean, the break scheduled by the school and will not include the additional weeks ordered by the State to combat the Coronavirus. If the school has moved spring break to an earlier date, so that it coincides with the State ordered school closing, the parent who is entitled to spring break will still receive a portion of the break equal to the original school spring break schedule. Should children be traveling by airplane and the flight is canceled, parents are required to make every reasonable effort to get the child or children on the next available flight, coordinating their arrival with the other parent, and keeping the other parent up to date on issues concerning travel and plans.

All other court procedures and policies not specifically addressed herein shall remain in full force and effect.

These temporary procedures shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

ENTER AS OF DATE OF FILING:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge Mark Kerenyi