

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN RE: 2nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT -
DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL
EMERGENCY

No. AD 15-2020

CLERK OF COURTS
2020 MAR 17 AM 8:53
LANCASTER COUNTY, PA

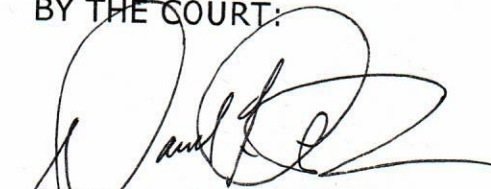
DECLARATION

AND NOW, this 17th day of March, 2020, consistent with the Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania dated March 16, 2020, this Court declares a judicial emergency in the Second Judicial District of Pennsylvania. Pursuant to Pennsylvania Rule of Judicial Administration 1952(B)(2), the Court orders the following:

1. All provisions of this Order apply to the period from March 17, 2020, through April 14, 2020;
2. This Court and the Lancaster County Courthouse and all Magisterial District Courts will remain open for the purpose of conducting official business pending further Order of Court;
3. All civil and criminal jury trials and jury duty are suspended pending further Order of Court, and non-jury trials may be suspended on a case by case basis;
4. All deadlines or scheduling orders in civil, criminal, family and/or orphans court cases remain in effect unless modified by further Order of Court or Order of the assigned Judge. The assigned Judge may suspend time calculations for the purposes of time computation relevant to court cases or other judicial business, as well as time deadlines, subject to constitutional restrictions. Judges are encouraged to apply the principles of flexibility and accommodation to reasonable requests for the filing or scheduling adjustments necessitated by reasonable fact-based health or safety concerns or advice or directives of public health officials;

5. All Judges and court personnel are encouraged and authorized to conduct proceedings by telephone or other advanced communication technology where practicable, subject to constitutional restrictions, and to take reasonable measures to minimize the need for the physical appearance of a detained person or other persons for the protection of the health of such detained person or other persons, counsel, court personnel and the public, unless such appearance is otherwise required by law. When required, the transport of a detained person shall continue unabated;
6. Pursuant to Pa.R.J.A. 1952(B)(2)(f), authorizing this Court to reassign judges as needed to ensure the continuation of operations, the sentencing on a guilty plea, *nolo contendere* plea, and/or probation/parole violation may be imposed by a Judge other than the Judge who received said plea or probation/parole violation;
7. The operation of Pennsylvania Rule of Criminal Procedure 600 shall be suspended in the Second Judicial District during the period of the local judicial emergency;
8. Execution of Orders for eviction or possession of residential properties in Lancaster County may be stayed at the discretion of the assigned Judge or Magisterial District Judge; and
9. The Judge presiding over any action or proceeding may take, and is encouraged to take, such further actions and enter such Orders as are consistent with the substance and tenor of this Order and as may be lawful and appropriate to ensure the fairness of the proceedings and to preserve the substantial rights of the parties in specific cases.

BY THE COURT:



DAVID L. ASHWORTH
PRESIDENT JUDGE

ATTEST:

Rhonda F. All
Ch Dep

Copies to: Pennsylvania State Court Administrator
Lancaster County Board of Judges
Lancaster County Magisterial District Judges
Lancaster County District Court Administrator
Lancaster County Clerk of Courts
Lancaster County Prothonotary
Lancaster County Register of Wills
Lancaster County Sheriff
Lancaster County District Attorney
Lancaster County Public Defender
Lancaster County Adult Probation & Parole Services
Lancaster County Prison
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners