

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF MIAMI COUNTY, OHIO  
GENERAL/DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISIONS

JOURNAL ENTRY

NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Miami County, Ohio, General/Domestic Relations Divisions make 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 13, 2020, President of the United States of America declared COVID-19 to be a National Emergency.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the General/Domestic Relations Divisions of the Court of Common Pleas has developed a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis escalates or increases in size or scope. 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. It is the intention of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Miami County, Ohio General/Domestic Relations Divisions to remain open and maintain essential court operations and functions, subject to further Orders of the Court.
2. The General/Domestic Relations Divisions’ Local Rules of Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.

**LOCAL RULE 2.09** shall be amended to suspend the page limitation on fax filings as set forth in Subsection (I)(1). All pleadings and paper filed with the Common Pleas Court Clerk of Courts by fax shall have no page limitation. In addition, the Clerk of Courts will now accept pleadings, filings or other papers by email at the following address: [cpfile@miamicountyohio.gov](mailto:cpfile@miamicountyohio.gov), subject to the same rules, fees and procedures as fax filings. Said amendments are effective by 4:00 p.m. on March 17, 2020.

3. The General/Domestic Relations Divisions' security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.
4. The General/Domestic Relations Divisions' Employee Handbook provisions may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential court operations and functions.
5. The General/Domestic Relations Divisions authorize the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings.
6. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary by assigned Judge/Magistrates on a case-by-case basis.
7. 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.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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JUDGE JEANNINE N. PRATT

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JUDGE STACY M. WALL

cc: Miami County Commissioners  
Miami County Prosecutor's Office  
Public Defender's Office  
Miami County C.S.E.A.  
Miami County General Division/Domestic Relations Division Court Employees  
Posting for Public Notice  
Miami County Bar Association  
Adult Parole Authority  
Common Pleas Court Administrator