

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

JOURNAL ENTRY

NO. _____

FURTHER 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.
4. On March 19, 2020, Miami County Commissioners declared a COVID-19 county emergency for Miami County, Ohio and all its departments and employees.
5. As of March 19, 2020, there have been reported two (2) cases of COVID-19 in Miami County.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the General/Domestic Relations Divisions of the Court of Common Pleas of Miami County

HEREBY ORDERS:

1. All non-essential trials, hearings and proceedings in the criminal, civil and domestic relations cases are hereby suspended and continued for a period of forty-five (45) days. Subject to the exceptions discussed below in paragraph 2, the Court recognizes that some criminal defendants’ statutory speedy trial deadlines may expire during this period. In all pending criminal matters in which a criminal defendant’s statutory speedy trial deadline expires, the Judge presiding over the

criminal matter should enter an order in that matter extending the speedy trial deadline pursuant to O.R.C. 2945.72(H) and OAG 20-02. The suspension of all jury trials for a period of 45 days is necessitated by emergency situation described above which reduces the ability to obtain and maintain an adequate spectrum of perspective seated jurors, the availability of counsel, litigants, witnesses and court staff and the public health considerations in light of the volume of individuals necessary for the court's usual jury trial calendar were this order not in place. In such manner, the court shall minimize the number of jury trials occurring and the concomitant public health considerations.

2. HOWEVER, recognizing that certain case by case differences may exist based upon a diverse set of factors, each judge may order that a specific case proceed to jury trial during the effectiveness of this further temporary emergency order. A judge, on a case by case basis, will determine whether bench trials, hearings, motion practice and other matters will proceed. In such event, the court's full and conscientious COVID-19 mitigation protocols will be utilized, which protocols include but are not limited to enhanced sanitation, cleaning and hygiene protocols and "social distancing".
3. The Court's Grand Jury will meet as scheduled with consideration of health directives recommended by Department of Public Health and CDC to maintain the safety of our Grand Jurors, witnesses, and participants. The Court will re-evaluate these consideration prior to each Grand Jury scheduled session.
4. The General/Domestic Relations Divisions authorize the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings.
5. There will be a 60 day moratorium on Foreclosure actions and Sheriff Sales.
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.

JUDGE JEANNINE N. PRATT

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