

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
OF LUZERNE COUNTY**

IN RE: 11th JUDICIAL DISTRICT : NO: 4174 OF 2020
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES : NO: 403 MD 2020

ORDER

AND NOW, this 19 day of November, 2020, pursuant to the Judicial Emergency previously declared by this Court as approved by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the authority of the Court pursuant to Pa.R.J.A. 1952(B) to address the emergency circumstances and to protect the health and welfare of the public, litigants and employees to the extent possible, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED and DECREED as follows:

1. Central Court 11-0-01 shall be closed effective Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. through Monday, November 30, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.
2. All Magisterial District Court Offices will be closed until Monday, November 30, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
3. The Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas: Criminal, Civil, Orphans Court and Family Court Divisions will be open for "Essential Services" ONLY.
4. Pending further Order of Court, only civil and criminal proceedings which directly impact the health, safety, security, welfare or incarceration of an individual shall be held as would normally be scheduled. All in person proceedings shall be postponed to a later date and rescheduled by Order of Court.
5. Family Court shall continue to operate to the extent possible to address all emergency matters. In the interim all hearings or conferences before a Hearing Officer shall be conducted by telephone conference and/or postponed to a later date. All pending matters before a Judge shall be reviewed on an individual basis to determine the need to

postpone and reschedule or address by alternate measures such as telephone conference.

6. The Domestic Relations Office shall conduct all proceedings for intake, conference and before the Hearing Officer telephonically. All normal contact with clients and/or the public shall also be telephonically. Domestic Relations Contempt Court is cancelled on November 24, 2020 and November 30, 2020 and will be rescheduled by Order of Court.

7. Luzerne County Probation Services shall conduct all business telephonically.

8. All dependency and/or delinquency proceedings that require immediate judicial review or adjudication shall be promptly heard by the assigned Judge. All other matters will be reviewed by the assigned Judge on an individual case basis. Cases that do not require immediate substantive actions such as case review, shall either be rescheduled or held telephonically within the discretion of the presiding Judge.

9. All jury trials are hereby postponed from November 30, 2020 through January 31, 2021. Jurors shall not appear as previously directed.

10. Judges shall review their individual calendars and whenever possible conduct necessary proceedings and/or conferences telephonically. Each Judge shall take the appropriate steps in scheduling to their individual calendar to comply with the provisions of this Order.

11. The following matters will be held as normally processed:

- PFA filings;
- Bail posting;
- Preliminary arraignments;
- Lift warrant hearings;
- Civil injunction proceedings;

- Mental health proceedings;
- Guardianships;
- Gagnon I Hearings for incarcerated Defendants (video)
- Special Court proceedings

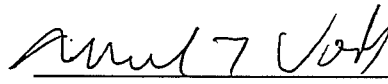
12. The District Court Administrator and the Office of Court Administration shall take all administrative steps to effectuate this Order.

IT IS FURTHER DIRECTED that this Order shall be posted in a public location in all Court facilities, shall be made available on the County and Court website and shall be provided to the Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association for publication in the Luzerne County Legal Register.

THIS ORDER shall be effective beginning at 4:30 p.m. on November 19, 2020 and shall expire at 8:30 a.m. on November 30, 2020 unless extended by further Order.

COMPLIANCE HEREWITH IS DIRECTED.

BY THE COURT:



 MICHAEL T. VOUGH, P.J.

Copies To:

All Judges of the 11th Judicial District
 All MD Judges of the 11th Judicial District
 Paul Hindmarsh - Luzerne County District Court Administrator
 Court Administration
 David Pedri, Esquire – Luzerne County Manager
 Romilda Crocamo, Esquire – Luzerne County Solicitor
 Stephanie Salavantis, Esquire – Luzerne County District Attorney
 Steven Greenwald, Esquire – Luzerne County Public Defender
 John Hakim, Esquire – Luzerne County Office of Law
 Carla Bradley, Central Court
 Maria Augello - Director of Probation Services
 Kevin Kane - Director of Domestic Relations Section
 Official Court Reporter