

**IN THE SUPREME COURT PENNSYLVANIA
MIDDLE DISTRICT**

IN RE: 20th Judicial District – : No. 33-MM-2020
Declaration of Judicial Emergency :

**AMENDMENT TO
FOURTH EXTENDED DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY**

This Amendment to Fourth Extended Declaration of Judicial Emergency restates, amends, and supersedes the Fourth Extended Declaration of Judicial Emergency that was issued for the 20th Judicial District on August 31, 2020. It does not extend the duration of such judicial emergency, but expands the scope of it.

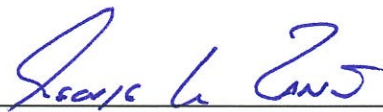
Declaration

Pursuant to the Supreme Court's Orders dated March 16, 2020, April 1, 2020, April 28, 2020, and May 27, 2020 (Nos. 531 and 532 Judicial Administration Docket), the judicial emergency declared in the 20th Judicial District of Pennsylvania on March 16, 2020, is hereby extended to December 31, 2020. This Amendment to Fourth Extended Declaration shall be self-effectuating, per the Supreme Court's Order of May 27th.

1. The operation of Rule of Criminal Procedure 600, relating to speedy trials, is hereby suspended for **all criminal matters** in the 20th Judicial District until December 31, 2020. This suspension shall be retroactive in effect, such that it covers the period from November 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020. This modification of the scope of the suspension does not affect time calculations for the period between September 1, 2020, and October 31, 2020, during which time the suspension only applied to matters in which the defendant was seeking a jury trial.
2. All jury trials, both criminal and civil, are suspended until December 31, 2020. Non-jury trials for defendants who are currently incarcerated are suspended during this period as well, due to time restrictions on their ability to appear remotely for trial via advanced communication technology,

which have been imposed by the facilities housing such defendants. Court Administration is directed to stay in communication with such facilities to determine whether resolution of the issue is possible. If so, non-jury trials will then be scheduled as soon as reasonably practicable.

3. The Court of Common Pleas has resumed scheduling and conducting proceedings exclusively in remote formats, using advanced communication technology, and will continue to do so through December 31, 2020. Appearance via ACT is **mandatory** for all participants in such proceedings, subject to such exceptions as the Court may grant, from time to time.
4. The Magisterial District Courts will continue to conduct all proceedings remotely via advanced communications technology, subject to such exceptions as the President Judge may determine from time to time.
5. The current suspension of the transportation of criminal defendants between correctional facilities and court facilities will continue until December 31, 2020, subject to such exceptions as the Court may grant, from time to time.
6. To the extent that this Amendment to Fourth Extended Declaration conflicts with any prior emergency declaration of the 20th Judicial District, or any Administrative Order issued thereunder, this declaration shall control. The Court will issue further Administrative Orders modifying operations under the judicial emergency from time to time, as necessary to respond to changing conditions and address best-practices guidance, and notice of such Administrative Orders will be provided in the same manner as for all other emergency Administrative Orders.



George N. Zanic, President Judge
November 23, 2020