

CLERK OF MERCER COUNTY

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MARY JO MCELIGNE DEPRETA
CLERK AND REGISTER

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF MERCER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: THIRTY-FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT :

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS :

No. 2020 - AD-28

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 23rd day of November, 2020, due to a recent upswing in COVID-19 cases, IT IS THE ORDER OF THIS COURT that December's trial term, including Call of the List, shall be revised as follows:


1. ***No criminal defendant shall appear in person at the Mercer County Courthouse, whether represented or unrepresented.***

(a) Attorneys shall appear for Call of the List prepared to discuss their cases. Defense attorneys are responsible for notifying their clients to not appear at Call of the List, but that they may be scheduled later in the trial term for a plea, ARD, or other disposition.

- (b) All unrepresented defendants shall be notified by the Court that their case has been continued to the January 6, 2021 Call of the List.
- 2. No incarcerated defendants shall be transported to Call of the List but shall be scheduled in accordance with the following schedule:
 - (a) All incarcerated defendants on Judge Wallace's list shall be heard at 11:00 a.m. via video conferencing in Courtroom No. 1.
 - (b) All incarcerated defendants on Judge Amrhein's list shall be heard at 1:30 p.m. via video conference in Courtroom No. 2.
- 3. Three courtrooms will be handling Call of the List:
 - a. Judge Nesbit, who will run Judge Wallace's list, and Judge Amrhein will run the Call of the List in Courtroom Nos. 1 and 2 respectively.
 - b. President Judge Yeatts will be available all day to hear any overflow and will be available to schedule pleas, ARD, and other disposition on December 17th and 18th.

4. Judge Wallace's scheduled homicide trial shall still commence on December 14, 2020. President Judge Yeatts has continued his civil trial. One other criminal trial can proceed during the week of trial, said second trial not to commence until December 15, 2020.
5. All persons present, including attorneys, court staff, sheriff's deputies, and others shall practice physical distancing, WEAR A MASK, and take all other precautions. In the smaller courtroom, this may result in attorneys waiting outside the courtroom until it is their turn to present their cases. It is expected that all persons present will act with courtesy and patience during this crisis period.

BY THE COURT:



for Robert G. Yeatts, President Judge P.J.

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