

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA
MIDDLE DISTRICT

IN RE: 21st JUDICIAL DISTRICT : NO. *MD-399-2020*
DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL :
EMERGENCY :

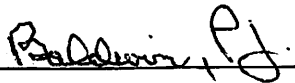
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SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PA

DECLARATION

Per the Supreme Court's Order dated March 16 2020, I declare a judicial emergency in the 21st Judicial District for the following period: March 17, 2020 to April 14, 2020.

The operation of Rule of Criminal Procedure 600 shall be suspended in the 21st Judicial District during the period of the local judicial emergency.

BY THE COURT,



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: 21st Judicial District : NO. AD- 20 -2020
Actions Pursuant to Declaration :
of Judicial Emergency :
2020.1 :

CLERK OF COURTS OFFICE
2020 MAR 17 AM 10:36
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

BALDWIN, P.J.

AND NOW, this 17th day of March, 2020, pursuant to the Court's Declaration of Judicial Emergency, issued March 17, 2020, and as authorized by the Supreme Court's Order of March 16, 2020 (No. 531 Judicial Administration Docket), in order to address the expanding outbreak of COVID-19 infections in Pennsylvania, the need to mitigate the possible expansion of that outbreak into the 21st Judicial District, and the goal of mitigating the danger to employees, litigants and counsel as well as the vulnerable populations of the 21st Judicial District, it is hereby ORDERED, effective immediately:

1. All judges of the Court of Common Pleas, magisterial district judges, hearing officers and conciliators, when reasonably possible, shall do the following:
 - (a) utilize, and encourage litigants to utilize, to the fullest extent available, advanced communication technology (primarily telephone or video conferencing) to reduce personal appearances for hearings, conferences, meetings and similar proceedings;

- (b) stagger court appearance times to reduce crowding;
- (c) limit meetings, conferences and other proceedings to essential participants and arrange seating to avoid unnecessary close personal contact.

2. Other than the modifications described above, the judges, hearing officers, and conciliators shall schedule and conduct proceedings in essentially the same manner they were scheduled before the judicial emergency.

3. To decrease the possible spread of the virus, the Schuylkill County Sheriff and his deputies are hereby authorized and directed to limit entrance to the Courthouse to parties, witnesses, and their attorneys required to attend a scheduled court proceeding, to citizens in order to access a county office or to meet with a county official, and to members of the press.

- (a) The Sheriff and his deputies are hereby authorized and directed to deny entrance to the Courthouse to anyone who is visibly ill.

- (b) When an individual, who has been denied entrance because of illness, was required to attend a court proceeding or meeting with a county official, a deputy shall obtain the individual's name, contact information, and purpose for coming to the Courthouse, and shall notify the Court or county official that the individual was denied entrance.

4. A Magisterial District Judge, or his or her designee are hereby authorized to deny access to the Magisterial District Judge's office to any individual who is visibly ill.

5. Any individual who believes he or she is being unjustly denied access to the Courthouse or a Magisterial District Court may immediately contact the District Court Administrator at 570-628-1226.

6. The Schuylkill County Sheriff and his deputies are hereby authorized and directed to decline transportation of prisoners from any prison/jail despite a valid transportation order if, using his or her reasonable discretion, the prisoner to be transported appears to be ill or may have, within the last 14 days, been in contact with someone who is positive for coronavirus. Any sheriff deputy declining transportation on this basis shall immediately contact the appropriate judge/hearing officer involved in the subject case.

7. A copy of the Court's Declaration of Judicial Emergency shall be posted on the entry doors of the County Courthouse and all Magisterial District Courts within the Judicial District and shall be posted on the County's public website. Further a copy of the Declaration shall be e-mailed to the Schuylkill County Bar Association with a request that the Association promptly forward the notice to all members.

This order shall take effect immediately.

BY THE COURT,

