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IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ADAMS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
PROTHONOTARY

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In Re: Judicial Emergency 2020 MAR 16 PM 4:49
Supervisory Order
No. 2020-SO- 116

ORDER OF COURT

AND NOW, this 16th day of March, 2020, pursuant to Rule of Judicial Administration 1952(a) and pursuant to the Order of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court dated March 16, 2020 declaring a statewide Judicial Emergency until April 14, 2020, it is hereby Ordered:

1. **Fifty-First Judicial District Judicial Emergency** - A judicial emergency is declared in the Fifty-First Judicial District effective immediately through April 14, 2020.
2. **Rule 600** - The operation of Rule of Criminal Procedure 600 shall be suspended in the Fifty-First Judicial District from March 16, 2020 through April 14, 2020.
3. **Criminal Court** - The following court dates are continued as designated below for all cases listed on the respective date with the exception of those cases in which the defendant is incarcerated:
 - March 16, 2020 Criminal Pleas Court** is continued to April 20, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. in a Courtroom to be designated at the Adams County Courthouse.
 - March 17, 2020 Arraignment & Sentencing Court** is continued to April 16, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. in a Courtroom to be designated at the Adams County Courthouse.
 - March 23, 2020 Revocation Court** is continued to April 23, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. in a Courtroom to be designated at the Adams County Courthouse.
 - March 26, 2020 DUI Court/Contempt Hearings** is continued to April 21, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. in a Courtroom to be designated at the Adams County Courthouse.

1 For cases scheduled on the above dates in which the defendant is
2 incarcerated at the Adams County Adult Correctional Complex, all
3 cases shall be held by video conferencing. The Adams County
4 Public Defender's office is directed to make arrangements to have
5 defense counsel available at the Adams County Adult Correctional
6 Complex at 8:30 a.m. on the dates identified. Video conferencing
7 shall be held in the Human Services Building Courtroom at which a
8 Commonwealth attorney shall be present. Courtroom access will
9 be limited to the parties and victims as permitted by the presiding
10 Judge. Media access may be permitted upon prior request to the
11 President Judge through the Court Administrator's Office. If an
12 incarcerated defendant is represented by private counsel, counsel
13 shall consult with their client prior to the time of scheduled hearing
14 and thereafter appear at the Human Services Building at the time
15 and date designated.

16 **4. March 30, 2020 Criminal Trial Term** - All cases scheduled for the March
17 30, 2020 Criminal Trial Term are continued to the June 1, 2020 Criminal Trial
18 Term at 8:30 a.m. in Courtroom No. 1 of the Adams County Courthouse at which
19 time the parties are directed to appear. All parties are advised that should they
20 fail to appear as directed, a warrant will be issued for their arrest and trial may
21 be held in their absence.

22 **5. March 20, 2020 Gagnon I Hearings** are continued to April 24, 2020 for
23 all non-incarcerated defendants. For incarcerated defendants, Gagnon I
24 hearings shall be conducted by video conferencing pursuant to current practice.

25 **6. March 18, 2020 and March 25, 2020 Central Court** - All Central Court
proceedings for non-incarcerated defendants for March 18, 2020 and March 25,
2020 are continued. Proceedings for March 18, 2020 are continued to April 1,
2020. Proceedings for March 25, 2020 are continued to April 8, 2020.

Proceedings for incarcerated defendants shall be held by video
conferencing. Public Defender counsel shall appear at the Adams County Adult
Correctional Complex at the scheduled time for purposes of proceedings.
Central Court proceedings shall be held in the Human Services Building

1 Courtroom at which time representatives from the Commonwealth and Victim-
2 Witness Office shall be available. Courtroom access shall be limited to the
3 parties and witnesses involved in the specific proceeding as determined by the
4 presiding Judge. Preliminary Hearings for incarcerated defendants shall be
5 conducted by video conferencing regardless of whether the defendant waives
6 the right to be personally present. Pa. R. Crim. P. 119 is suspended.
7 Proceedings unable to be conducted by video conferencing shall be continued
8 as set forth hereinabove. Counsel are encouraged to take advantage of liberal
9 waiver procedures as set forth in Supervisory Order issued March 13, 2020.

10 7. **Domestic Relations Court** - All proceedings for March 24, March 31,
11 April 7, and April 14 shall be conducted telephonically. The conference shall be
12 held on the dates and times as previously scheduled. Contact with the parties
13 shall be made by the Court provided counsel/parties have provided contact
14 information to the Domestic Relations Office at least 24 hours prior to the
15 scheduled proceeding. The contact information shall be provided to the
16 Domestic Relations Office at 717-337-9804. All parties shall comply with all
17 document production as may have been previously ordered.

18 8. **Domestic Relations Conferences** - All conferences scheduled before a
19 Domestic Relations conference officer shall be conducted by telephone. The
20 proceeding shall be conducted on the date and time as previously scheduled.
21 The parties/counsel are directed to provide contact information to the Domestic
22 Relations Office at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled conference. Contact
23 information shall be provided to the Domestic Relations Office at 717-337-9804.

24 9. **Juvenile Court** - All proceedings scheduled for March 19, 2020 Juvenile
25 Court are continued to April 16, 2020 at the Human Services Courtroom at a
time designated by the Juvenile Probation Department.

10. **Dependency Court** - All proceedings scheduled for March 26, 2020 are
continued to April 9, 2020 at the Human Services Courtroom at a time
designated by Adams County Children and Youth Services.

11. **Divorce Master Hearings** - All divorce master hearings scheduled
through April 30, 2020 are continued to a date beyond April 30, 2020. The

1 master in each respective case is directed to coordinate with the parties and
2 Court Administration to reschedule the proceedings.

3 12. **Custody Conciliation Hearings** - All hearings scheduled through April
4 13, 2020 are continued to a date subsequent to April 13, 2020. The appointed
5 conciliator is directed to make arrangements with the parties/counsel to
6 reschedule the proceedings until a date subsequent to April 13, 2020.

7 13. **Adams County Law Library** - The Adams County Law Library is closed
8 effective March 17, 2020 through April 13, 2020. During this time, access to the
9 library shall be permitted by appointment on Mondays and Thursdays between
10 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Appointments may also be scheduled between 9:00
11 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. on Fridays. Appointments may be scheduled by contacting
12 the Law Librarian at 717-337-9812 during the above identified hours. The Law
13 Librarian shall post the entry door to the library advising as to the contents of this
14 paragraph.

15 14. **Civil Proceedings** - The scheduling of civil proceedings will be
16 addressed on a case-by-case basis by the presiding Judge. Questions
17 concerning the scheduling of civil proceedings should be directed to the
18 chambers of the presiding Judge.

19 15. **Protection From Abuse Orders** - The current practice for protection
20 from abuse orders shall remain in place. Protection from abuse orders shall be
21 held as scheduled by the presiding Judge pursuant to local practice.

22 16. **Emergency Petitions/Requests for Injunctive Relief** - Emergency
23 petitions and injunctive relief petitions shall continue to be accepted by the Court
24 pursuant to local practice by filing with the Adams County Prothonotary's Office.
25 Counsel are directed to exercise discretion in the filing of said petitions.

17. **Prison Transports** - No person shall be transported from the Adams
County Adult Correctional Complex by the Adams County Sheriff's Department
or any other entity for any court proceedings.

18. **Sheriff's Sales** - The sheriff sale scheduled for March 20, 2020 is
rescheduled until May 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Jury Assembly Room of the
Adams County Courthouse.

19. **Filing Offices** – The Adams County Prothonotary’s Office, the Clerk of
1 Courts Office, the Recorder of Deeds Office, and the Domestic Relations Office
2 shall be open for filings from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
3 The provisions of this paragraph shall automatically vacate on April 13, 2020.
4 Thereafter, all filing offices shall resume normal hours of operation.

20. **Juvenile Emergency Proceedings** – Delinquency and dependency
5 hearings, due process hearings, and other emergency hearings shall be
6 conducted as normal pursuant to local practice.

21. **Time Limitations** – Time limitations for the initiation of any action or filing
7 of any pleading or document applicable by statute, rule of court, or court order
8 for all filings at the Adams County Prothonotary’s Office, the Clerk of Courts
9 Office, and the Domestic Relations Office are extended until April 14, 2020. Any
10 filing required by statute, court rule, or order of court prior to that date shall be
11 considered timely filed if filed on or before the close of business on April 14,
12 2020.


22. **Magisterial District Judge Proceedings** – All Magisterial District Judge
13 proceedings may be continued by the respective Magisterial District Judge on a
14 case-by-case basis through April 14, 2020 with the exception of preliminary
15 hearings in criminal proceedings for defendants who are incarcerated.
16 Preliminary hearings conducted for defendants who are incarcerated shall be
17 conducted by video conferencing regardless of whether waiver is obtained.

23. **Preliminary Arraignments** – All preliminary arraignments shall continue
18 to be conducted by Magisterial District Judges pursuant to current practice and
19 the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure.

24. **Notice** – The Adams County Court Administrator’s Office is directed to
21 post a copy of this Order on all entry doors of the Adams County Courthouse
22 and all Magisterial District Courts within the Fifty-First Judicial District. Court
23 Administration is further directed to post a copy of this Order on the Fifty-First
24 Judicial District’s website. A copy of this Order shall be transmitted by Court
25 Administration to all members of the Adams County Bar Association.

1 The foregoing scheduling adjustments are subject to the interests of
2 justice. In the event a party believes a compelling interest requires a proceeding
3 to be held as previously scheduled, they are directed to contact Court
4 Administration at 717-337-9846, Extension 1070. If not otherwise altered by
5 court order, the provisions of this Order shall automatically vacate on April 30,
6 2020.

7 BY THE COURT:

8 
9 **MICHAEL A. GEORGE**
10 **President Judge**

- 11 Board of Judges
- 12 Court Administration
- 13 Robert Powell, Chief Tipstaff
- 14 Court Reporters
- 15 Magisterial District Judges
- 16 Department of Operational Services
- 17 Adams County Commissioners
- 18 Adult Correctional Complex
- 19 Children & Youth Services
- 20 Clerk of Courts Office
- 21 District Attorney's Office/Victim Witness Office
- 22 Domestic Relations
- 23 Emergency Services
- 24 Law Library
- 25 Probation Services
- Prothonotary's Office
- Public Defender's Office
- Register & Recorder's Office
- Security Department
- Sheriff's Department
- Adams County Bar Association
- The Gettysburg Times
- jvs