

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: 8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

:
: MISC. NO. AD-20-3

ORDER

AND NOW, this 18th day of March, 2020, pursuant to the Judicial Emergency 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. 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 other proceedings shall be postponed to a later date.
2. In particular the following matters shall be postponed and rescheduled:
 - Civil arbitration hearings
 - Summary appeal hearings
 - Driver's license appeal hearings
 - Tax appeal hearings
 - Motor vehicle title proceedings
 - Quiet title proceedings
 - Adoption proceedings
 - Specialty Court proceedings
3. The following matters shall be held as normally processed:
 - Protection from Abuse hearings
 - Bail postings
 - Preliminary arraignments
 - Bench warrant hearings
 - Civil injunction proceedings
 - Mental health proceedings
 - Guardianships
 - Gagnon I Hearings for Incarcerated Defendants (video conference)

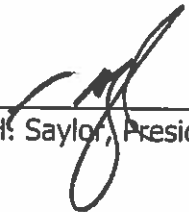
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CLERK OF COURTS

4. Family Court shall continue to operate to the extent possible to address all emergency matters. In the interim all conferences before the Conciliator 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.
5. 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.
6. Northumberland County Adult Probation and Parole Department shall conduct all proceedings for intake and conference. All normal contact with clients and/or the public shall also be telephonically.
7. All jury trials are hereby postponed pending further Order of Court.
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. Nothing herein shall be construed to impact the right to speedy trials or other constitutional rights or procedures. On the contrary, all constitutional requirements shall be followed in all matters.
10. The District Court Administrator and the Office of Court Administration shall take all administrative steps to effectuate this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall be posted in a public location in all Court facilities, shall be made available on the County website and shall be provided to the Northumberland County Legal Journal for publication.


This Order shall be effective immediately and shall expire on April 14, 2020 unless extended by further Order.

BY THE COURT:



Charles H. Saylor, President Judge

pc: Judge Paige Rosini
Judge Hugh A. Jones
Senior Judge Harold Woelfel, Sr.
Court Administrator
District Attorney
Chief Public Defender
Chief Probation Officer
Custody Hearing Officer
Domestic Relations Administrator
Northumberland County Commissioners
Northumberland Legal Journal

Extracted from the records
and certified this 18th day
of March A.D. 2020


Clerk of Courts

My Commission Expires First
Monday of January, 2022