

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: TEMPORARY CONSOLIDATION
OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT
FUNCTIONS AND TEMPORARY
COVERAGE OF CONSOLIDATED
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS

NO:

AND NOW, this 19th day of March 2020, in response to the judicial emergency declared on March 17, 2020 for the purpose of protecting the health and safety of the public and the court employees; and pursuant to Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952 (B)(2);

IT IS ORDERED, effective at the close of business on March 19, 2020 and lasting through April 3, 2020, that all Magisterial District Courts are generally closed to the public for non-essential functions.

IT IS ORDERED, effective immediately, Magisterial District Courts will consolidate coverage of magisterial districts on a rotating basis during daytime hours. Daytime coverage will be for the purpose of Preliminary Arraignments, Issuance of Search Warrants, Criminal Case Filings, and Emergency Protection Orders. (All Preliminary Hearings for Incarcerated defendants will be scheduled at Central Court within 14 days.) Covering District Courts will be available by phone to respond to these requests. The Communications Center will refer callers to the appropriate covering Magisterial District Judge, as identified below. After hours coverage will continue as established by Court Order No. MD-2440-2019. Prior night (Morning) arraignments will continue to be processed by the Magisterial District Judge assigned to Central Court per Court Order No. MD-2440-2019.

IT IS ORDERED, the following districts will provide coverage for all areas during daytime hours of closure for the assigned groups:

- Group 1 includes District Courts 31-1-01, 31-1-02, 31-1-03, 31-2-01
- Group 2 includes District Court 31-1-05, 31-1-06, 31-1-07, 31-2-02, 31-3-01
- Group 3 includes District Courts 31-1-04, 31-1-08, 31-2-03, 31-3-02, 31-3-03

IT IS ORDERED, coverage will be provided by Magisterial District Judge and assigned staff for all district courts in the aforementioned groups as follows:

<u>March 19, 2020</u>	<u>March 20, 2020</u>	<u>March 23, 2020</u>	<u>March 24, 2020</u>
31-2-01(Group 1 Cover)	31-1-02(Group 1 Cover)	31-1-03(Group 1 Cover)	31-1-01(Group 1 Cover)
31-1-07(Group 2 Cover)	31-2-02(Group 2 Cover)	31-1-06(Group 2 Cover)	31-3-01(Group 2 Cover)
31-1-04(Group 3 Cover)	31-3-02(Group 3 Cover)	31-1-08(Group 3 Cover)	31-2-03(Group 3 Cover)
<u>March 25, 2020</u>	<u>March 26, 2020</u>	<u>March 27, 2020</u>	<u>March 30, 2020</u>
31-2-01(Group 1 Cover)	31-1-02(Group 1 Cover)	31-1-03(Group 1 Cover)	31-2-01(Group 1 Cover)
31-1-07(Group 2 Cover)	31-2-02(Group 2 Cover)	31-1-06(Group 2 Cover)	31-3-01(Group 2 Cover)
31-1-04(Group 3 Cover)	31-3-02(Group 3 Cover)	31-1-08(Group 3 Cover)	31-2-03(Group 3 Cover)
<u>March 31, 2020</u>	<u>April 1, 2020</u>	<u>April 2, 2020</u>	<u>April 3, 2020</u>
31-1-01(Group 1 Cover)	31-1-02(Group 1 Cover)	31-1-03(Group 1 Cover)	31-2-01(Group 1 Cover)
31-1-07(Group 2 Cover)	31-2-02(Group 2 Cover)	31-1-06(Group 2 Cover)	31-3-01(Group 2 Cover)
31-1-04(Group 3 Cover)	31-3-02(Group 3 Cover)	31-1-08(Group 3 Cover)	31-2-03(Group 3 Cover)

During times of court closures staff will maintain necessary functions of the office with limited staffing. Remainder of staff will work from home and be on call for unplanned needs of the District Court.

BY THE COURT:



EDWARD D. REIBMAN, P.J.