

IN RE: STATEWIDE JUDICIAL  
EMERGENCY – SUSPENSION  
SUPERIOR COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

: IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF  
: PENNSYLVANIA

RE: Children’s Fast Track Appeals,  
Generally

: No. 3 Administrative Docket

**ORDER**

AND NOW, this 26th day of March, 2020, pursuant to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania’s Orders declaring a judicial emergency, **see** 531 & 532 Judicial Administration Docket (Pa. Mar. 18, 2020), in recognition of the difficulties litigants may face in attempting to file notices of appeal for cases that would be defined as a Children’s Fast Track appeal, **see** Pa.R.A.P. 102 (defining Children’s Fast Track), and such cases having been designated as matters of essential function, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. The Superior Court’s Miscellaneous Docket is OPEN for the filing of notices of appeal for Children’s Fast Track appeals.
2. Any such notice of appeal SHALL be filed in the appropriate Superior Court District Office: Eastern, Middle, or Western.
3. Any such notice of appeal SHALL bear the following, in bold-face, 14-point font, in its caption: “**Children’s Fast Track Notice of Appeal**”
4. Any such notice of appeal must comply with the Pennsylvania Rules of Appellate Procedure in all other respects, including the attachment of a Pa.R.A.P. 1925(a)(2) statement, **see** Pa.R.A.P. 905(a)(2), and payment of the filing fee. Litigants who are subject to a filing fee are still under a responsibility to pay the filing fee in the appropriate court of common pleas.
5. Any such notice of appeal must include a separate page certifying that filing of the notice of appeal in the appropriate court of

common pleas, and service on the trial judge pursuant to Pa.R.A.P. 906(a)(2), is impractical due to the closure of the court facilities during the judicial emergency.

6. Upon this Court's verification of the appellant's certification, the Prothonotary of the Superior Court shall initiate the appeal as if this Court had properly received the notice of appeal from the court of common pleas and stamp the newly created docket number on the notice of appeal. The Prothonotary of the Superior Court shall thereafter forward the stamped notice of appeal, including all attachments and filing fees, to the appropriate court of common pleas filing office, pursuant to Pa.R.A.P. 905(a)(4).
7. Upon receipt of the notice of appeal from this Court, the court of common pleas shall docket the notice of appeal as filed on the date the Superior Court docketed the notice of appeal. The court of common pleas shall immediately thereafter provide this Court with written verification that it docketed the notice of appeal, including but not limited to an updated docket and the notice of appeal bearing the Superior Court's stamped docket number.
8. Although the Supreme Court has issued a judicial-emergency order, this Court's treatment of Children's Fast Track appeals during the judicial emergency shall remain unchanged. This Court will continue to: (1) grant extensions for applicable filings only upon a showing of true need, and limited to seven (7) days; (2) adhere to strict timelines for party filings, including for briefs and applications for reargument; and (3) expedite review and disposition of Children's Fast Track appeals pursuant to Superior Court O.P. §§ 65.14 and 65.42.
9. To the extent a trial court is unable to comply with the timeline specified in a remand Order of this Court, the court shall immediately notify the Prothonotary of the Superior Court, in writing.
10. In light of the temporary closure of the public counters at the Superior Court Prothonotary offices, filings must be made *via* PACFile or by United States Mail, with appropriate certification of

the date of mailing. Information on PACFile may be found at <https://ujportal.pacourts.us/>.


By the Court,

---

Jack A. Panella, P.J.

(True copy from record)

ATTEST:



---

**Benjamin Kohler**  
**Deputy Prothonotary**  
**SUPERIOR COURT OF PA**