

IN RE: DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL : IN THE COURT OF
EMERGENCY IN THE 28th JUDICIAL : COMMON PLEAS
DISTRICT : OF VENANGO COUNTY,
: PENNSYLVANIA
:
: 35 WM 2020

SELF-EFFECTUATING DECLARATION
EXTENDING LOCAL JUDICIAL EMERGENCY THROUGH
AUGUST 31, 2020

AND NOW, this 29th day of May, 2020, in accordance with Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania dated May 27, 2020 it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

The Declaration of Judicial Emergency in Venango County is hereby extended through **August 31, 2020**.

The purpose of this Declaration is to safely accelerate full operation of the Venango County Court system. The Court shall make its best efforts to accomplish the timely administration of justice in all matters as explained more fully by the directives of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

The court buildings, consisting of the Venango County Courthouse and the Courthouse Annex and the Magisterial District Court Offices, shall remain open to the public limited by continued safeguards to protect the health and safety of court personnel, court users, and members of the public, this with the added safeguards as follows:

- a) Individuals entering any court facility shall be required to follow CDC guidelines for access to public buildings, including appropriate social distancing, wearing protective face masks, and complying with all safety directives provided by the presiding Judge. Anyone requesting exemption from this requirement that face coverings be worn in public places due to medical reasons should contact the Court ADA Coordinator identified below as soon as possible, but no later than three (3) days before the scheduled event:

Jonathan Maddy
District Court Administrator/ADA Coordinator
jmaddy@co.venango.pa.us
(814) 432-9606

- b) The Sheriff and/or his deputies shall continue to monitor and turn away individuals exhibiting or describing symptoms of COVID-19 in an effort to protect the employees and the members of the public.

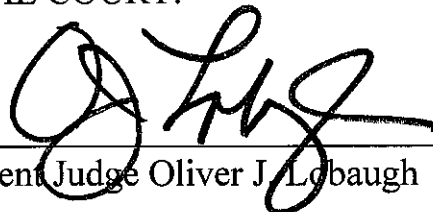
The Court Administrator and the Magisterial District Court staff, in an effort to minimize the population of the Courthouse and the Courthouse Annex and the Magisterial District Court Offices at any given time, will schedule proceedings at staggered intervals with sufficient time between hearings in an effort to safeguard the health and safety of court personnel, court users, or members of the public on any given day at any given time.

Advanced communication technologies shall be used when feasible. Any statewide rule that restricts, either directly or indirectly, the use of advanced communication technology is hereby suspended.

Any statewide rule pertaining to the rule-based right of criminal defendants to a prompt trial is suspended through August 31, 2020. Jury trials continue to be suspended through August 31, 2020. This Court along with local court leaders continue to assess all options for resuming jury selection and jury trials in Venango County as soon as possible in consideration of the health and safety of prospective jurors, court users, attorneys and court staff given the risks presented by the uncertainty associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Any statewide rule impeding any local provisions for court filings by means other than in-person delivery is suspended. The Court will continue to provide for court filings by means other than in-person delivery, namely, by fax or email to the appropriate office for filing.

BY THE COURT:



President Judge Oliver J. Lobaugh