

BERKS COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

In Re: 23rd Judicial District : Emergency Judicial Order
: No. 20-3264
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**SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY ORDER
FOR JUNE, 2020**

AND NOW, this 1st day of June, 2020, in accordance with the Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania of May 27, 2020, (Judicial Administration Docket No. 531 and 532), and pursuant to the emergency powers designated under Rule 1952(B)(2), it is declared that the Berks County Courts (23rd Judicial District) remain in an ongoing judicial emergency. Therefore, it is ORDERED that all postponements and extensions as set forth in prior orders of this Court, as amended, including the Administrative Orders dated on or subsequent to March 17, 2020, are extended to at least June 30, 2020.

The Courts will continue with essential judicial services.

All jury trials are postponed until at least June 15, 2020. Jury trials will resume on or after June 15, consistent with prevailing health and safety norms.

Any statewide rules that restrict, directly or indirectly, the use of advanced communication technologies are suspended. Any hearing may be scheduled using alternative electronic means, and such alternate electronic means should be utilized when possible. When deemed appropriate and necessary, hearings requiring personal appearances may be scheduled at the discretion of the assigned Judge. Where parties, attorneys or witnesses are in congregate settings, social distancing shall be observed. If a party objects to a hearing by other electronic means, a motion shall be filed in advance as to the reason why alternative electronic means shall not be used. Similarly, if a party objects to a hearing requiring

personal appearance, a motion shall be filed in advance as to the reason for the objection to personal appearance. Hearings where personal appearances are required may have limits to in person access to any proceeding, at the discretion of the assigned Judge, in order to safeguard the health and safety of court personnel, court users, and members of the public.

All persons entering county buildings for court business will wear a mask covering their nose and mouth at all times, unless otherwise specifically permitted or directed by a Judge.

The Operation of Rule of Criminal Procedure 600 continues to be suspended until such times as jury trials actually resume, subject to constitutional mandates. Nothing in this order shall affect a criminal defendant's right to a speedy trial under the United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions, albeit that the circumstances giving rise to this Order and the suspension may be relevant to the constitutional analysis.

Further extension beyond the dates set forth in this Order may be entered.

This Order shall be effective immediately.

BY THE COURT:



Thomas G. Parisi,
President Judge

SUPREME COURT DOCKET 53 MM 2020