

**IN THE SUPREME COURT PENNSYLVANIA  
MIDDLE DISTRICT**

IN RE: 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District – : No. 33-MM-2020  
Declaration of Judicial Emergency :

**FOURTH EXTENDED DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY**

Pursuant to the Supreme Court's Orders dated March 16, 2020, April 1, 2020, April 28, 2020, and May 27, 2020 (Nos. 531 and 532 Judicial Administration Docket), the judicial emergency declared in the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Pennsylvania on March 16, 2020, is hereby extended to December 31, 2020. This Fourth Extended Declaration shall be self-effectuating, per the Supreme Court's Order of May 27<sup>th</sup>.

1. The operation of Rule of Criminal Procedure 600, relating to speedy trials, shall remain suspended in the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District until December 31, 2020, for all criminal defendants seeking a jury trial. For all other criminal matters the suspension of Rule 600 will end on August 31, 2020.
2. Juror summonses have been issued and are being processed for jury trials scheduled to occur in October 2020, with selection to occur in September 2020. The District Court Administrator will be directed to schedule additional jury trial terms, and summon additional jurors, based on future circumstances and guidance from public health officials.
3. The Court of Common Pleas will continue its current practice of scheduling proceedings using a blend of live and remote formats. Mandatory use of Advanced Communication Technology for conducting certain proceedings will continue, and the election of live versus remote for any given proceeding will remain at the discretion of the Court, subject to petition by a party in the particular matter.

4. The Magisterial District Courts will continue to conduct all proceedings remotely via Advanced Communications Technology, subject to such exceptions as the President Judge may determine from time to time.
5. The current suspension of the transportation of criminal defendants between correctional facilities and court facilities, other than for jury trials, will continue until December 31, 2020.
6. To the extent that this Fourth Extended Declaration conflicts with any prior emergency declaration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, or any Administrative Order issued thereunder, this declaration shall control. The Court will issue further Administrative Orders modifying operations under the judicial emergency from time to time, as necessary to respond to changing conditions and address best-practices guidance, and notice of such Administrative Orders will be provided in the same manner as for all other emergency Administrative Orders.



George N. Zanic, President Judge  
August 31, 2020