

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, BLAIR COUNTY  
24<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**IN RE: 24<sup>TH</sup> Judicial District –**

**DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY**

**Supreme Court:  
No. 20 WM 2020  
Blair County No.:  
No. 2020 MD 0003**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

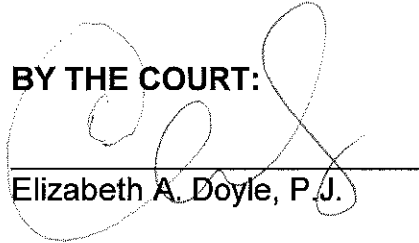
**PRELIMINARY HEARINGS**

**AND NOW**, this 2<sup>ND</sup> day of April, 2020, pursuant to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Orders of March 18, 2020, April 1, 2020 and the individual Judicial Emergency declared in Blair County by President Judge Elizabeth A. Doyle, the court hereby **ORDERS, DIRECTS** and **DECREES** as follows:

1. Preliminary hearings for defendants who are in custody will occur via advanced communication technology (including, but not limited to, video and/or telephone).
2. All attorneys, witnesses (including law enforcement officers) and victims will appear or attend by telephone (though they may appear in person, if necessary. It shall be the responsibility of the Commonwealth (affiant/ DA/ victim-witness advocate) to notify any victims/witnesses, if applicable.
3. If appearance by video or the Magisterial District Judge's presence is not possible or practical, all parties will appear by telephone.

4. All appearance or attendance by telephone will be by means of a telephone conference established by Court Administration.
5. Each defendant for whom a preliminary hearing is conducted under this Order is automatically deemed to have reserved, for assertion at a date prior to the disposition of their case but not later than forty-five (45) days after the termination of this judicial emergency, the right to petition:
  - a. For writ of *habeas corpus*; and
  - b. For good cause shown, to have their preliminary hearing reopened for the taking of live testimony.
6. Counsel for the Commonwealth and the defendant shall confer as soon as practicable prior to the preliminary hearing to determine the defendant is willing to waive the preliminary hearing. An electronic copy of a signed waiver (i.e. faxed or scanned wavier) will be accepted for filing.
7. This Administrative Order shall be effective immediately, and shall continue in effect until the termination of the judicial emergency and/or further order of this Court.

**BY THE COURT:**



Elizabeth A. Doyle, P.J.