

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, BLAIR COUNTY
24TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

IN RE: 24TH Judicial District –

DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

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

MODIFIED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 7th day of January, 2021, upon consideration of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's previous Orders of March 16, 2020 declaring a general, Statewide Judicial Emergency, Order of April 28, 2020, extending the general, Statewide Emergency, and Order of May 27, 2020 ceasing the Statewide Judicial Emergency as of June 1, 2020, and permitting local declaration of judicial emergency, as well as this Court's previous Administrative Orders dated **April 24, 2020, May 29, 2020, July 1, 2020, August 31, 2020, and November 24, 2020**, it is hereby ORDERED, DIRECTED, and DECREED as follows:

NOVEMBER JUDICIAL EMERGENCY ORDER AFFIRMED AND MODIFIED

1. The November 24, 2020 local judicial emergency order is affirmed in every respect except as modified as follows:

GUIDANCE ABOUT CONDUCTING PROCEEDINGS

2. From the date of this Order through April 30, 2021, all Rules of Criminal Procedure prohibiting the use of audio/visual advanced communication technology continue to be suspended. Common Pleas Judges and Magisterial

District Court Judges shall whenever possible conduct hearings, including preliminary hearings in all criminal cases, and all other court events:

- a. Using advanced communication technology, including BlueJeans, Zoom, telephone and audio/visual devices;
- b. Staggering court appearance times to reduce contact;
- c. Limiting meetings, conferences and other gatherings to advanced communication technology or essential participants to reduce contact.
- d. All criminal case preliminary hearings for both incarcerated and non-incarcerated persons may be held or waived using advanced communication technology.
- e. Beginning no later than February 16, 2021, all preliminary hearings for criminal cases shall be held in the timeframe mandated by Pennsylvania Rule of Criminal Procedure 540.

SUSPENSION OF JURY SELECTION AND JURY TRIALS

3. Criminal jury selection scheduled for January, 2021 is canceled. Criminal jury trials scheduled February 8-19, 2021, are canceled.

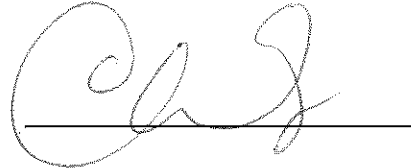
SUSPENSION OF RULE 600

Due to the continuing and worsening Covid-19 pandemic, Pa. Rule of Crim. Procedure 600 is suspended from November 25, 2020 through February 23, 2021.

The purpose of this Administrative Order is to continue the functioning of the Blair County Court system in a safe and efficient manner while adhering to

CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health Guidelines in order to protect all court personnel, court users and the public.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Doyle', is written over a solid horizontal line.

Elizabeth A. Doyle, P.J.