

FILED  
BLAIR COUNTY  
ROBIN G. PATTON

2021 APR 30 AM 8:33 IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, BLAIR COUNTY  
24<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CLERK OF ORPHANS COURT  
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT

**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**

AND NOW, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 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, November 24, 2020, and January 7, 2021** it is hereby ORDERED, DIRECTED, and DECREED as follows:

#### **JUDICIAL EMERGENCY ORDER AFFIRMED AND MODIFIED**

1. The January 7, 2021 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 **June 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 may conduct hearings, including preliminary hearings in all criminal cases, and all other court events as follows:

- 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.
3. All criminal case preliminary hearings for both incarcerated and non-incarcerated persons may be held or waived using advanced communication technology.
- a. All preliminary hearings for criminal cases shall be held in the timeframe mandated by Pennsylvania Rule of Criminal Procedure 540.

#### **RESUMPTION OF JURY SELECTION AND JURY TRIALS**

Jury selection and jury trials are resumed effective with the April 2021 trial term.

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 in the continuing Covid-19 Pandemic.

**BY THE COURT:**



A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'E' followed by a cursive 'A' and 'D'. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Elizabeth A. Doyle, P.J.