

IN RE: BUSINESS OF COURT

**ORDER SUSPENDING JURY TRIALS  
THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020**

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
FOR THE 26TH JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT, COLUMBIA /MONTGOMERY  
COUNTIES PENNSYLVANIA

(PA SUPREME COURT # 41-MM-2020)

**ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, this Court ordered a judicial emergency in the 26th Judicial District on May 28, 2020, extending through December 31, 2020, which order suspended jury trials through September 1, 2020; an order of August 7, 2020, suspended jury trials through September 1, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, jury trials involve congregating well over one hundred people in one location for jury selection; and

**WHEREAS**, this Court has studied options provided in detail by the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges (an excellent and very comprehensive study) and other sources including courts who have attempted to engage in jury selection during the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, this Court has considered a risk/benefit analysis for conducting jury trials during this pandemic at this time, including additional costs, health concerns, community spread, fluid pandemic circumstances, and prevailing health and safety norms; and

**WHEREAS**, this Court deems it prudent for the safety of its staff, court users, potential jurors, and the public to suspend jury trials beyond though at least December 31, 2020.

**THEREFORE**, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020, the court ORDERS that jury trials in the 26th Judicial District are suspended until December 31, 2020. Thereafter, trials will be held, provided they can be conducted safely and consistent with prevailing health and safety norms.

BY THE COURT:



P.J.

THOMAS A. JAMES

2020 OCT 14 10 00 AM

CLERK OF COURT