

IN RE: BUSINESS OF COURT  
**ORDER EXTENDING JUDICIAL  
EMERGENCY THROUGH JUNE 30,  
2021, and SUSPENDING JURY  
TRIALS THROUGH April 30, 2021**

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
FOR THE 26TH JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT, COLUMBIA /MONTGOMERY  
COUNTIES PENNSYLVANIA  
(PA SUPREME COURT # 41-MM-2020)

**ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court authorized each Pennsylvania judicial district to declare a judicial emergency for their respective judicial districts on March 16, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, by order dated May 27, 2020, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court terminated the statewide judicial emergency order effective June 1, 2020, while specifically empowering President Judges of the state judicial districts to declare and/or continue local states of emergency and specifically limit in-person access to the courts and to suspend certain rules and to suspend jury trials, consistent with "prevailing health and safety norms" and to "protect court personnel, court users, and members of the public"; and,

**WHEREAS**, this court ordered a judicial emergency in the 26th Judicial District on March 16, 2020, and amended the order several times, the latest being dated May 28, 2020, which extended the judicial emergency through December 31, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, by various orders of this court, jury trials have been suspended in this judicial district, now through December 31, 2020; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Court of Common Pleas for the 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Pennsylvania deems it prudent for the safety of its staff, court users, and the public to extend safety protocols through at least June 30, 2021, subject to changing and fluid pandemic circumstances and prevailing health and safety norms.

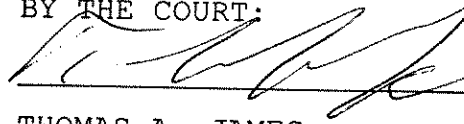
**THEREFORE**, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020, the court **ORDERS** that:

1. The judicial emergency in the 26th Judicial District is extended through June 30, 2021.
2. Jury trials in the 26th Judicial District are suspended until April 30, 2021. Thereafter, trials will be held,

provided they can be conducted safely and consistent with prevailing health and safety norms.

3. The Pandemic Safety Protocols Order dated November 2, 2020, effective until the termination of the judicial emergency, shall remain in full force and effect.
4. The court continues to encourage court staff, counsel, litigants, and all others involved in the court process to permanently adopt efficient procedures developed during the court emergency and to discard inefficiencies that may have been insidiously engrained in the court culture.

BY THE COURT:



P.J.

THOMAS A. JAMES

FILED  
RECORDARY  
2020 NOV 19 P 1:42  
CLERK OF COURTS  
COURT OF COMMONS, VA