

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: 49th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY ORDER

)
) No. CP-14-MD-0495-2020
)
) 39-MM-2020

SEVENTH AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 23rd day of April, 2021, upon consideration of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Order of March 16, 2020 declaring a general, Statewide Judicial Emergency, Order of April 28, 2020, extending the general, Statewide Judicial Emergency, and Order of May 27, 2020 ceasing the Statewide Judicial Emergency as of June 1, 2020, as well as this Court's previous Administrative Orders dated March 18, 2020, April 6, 2020, April 23, 2020, May 29, 2020, June 25, 2020, September 3, 2020 and December 29, 2020, it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED as follows:

FILED FOR RECORD
2021 APR 23 PM 3:04
JEREMY BEYON
PROthonARY
CENTRE COUNTY, PA

1. The local judicial emergency for Centre County shall be extended through June 30, 2021 for the specific reasons set forth below and for the time frames prescribed.
2. From the date of this Order through June 30, 2021, all Common Pleas Judges and Magisterial District Court judges are authorized and encouraged to continue the following:
 - a. Using advanced communication technology, including Zoom, telephone and audio/visual devices, when reasonably possible and practicable;
 - b. Staggering court appearance times to reduce contact;
 - c. Limiting meetings, conferences and other gatherings to essential participants to reduce contact.
3. Hearings requiring personal appearances will be scheduled at the discretion of the presiding judge.
4. Civil jury selection and jury trials are suspended until further notice.
5. Criminal jury selection is scheduled for May 3, 4, and 5, 2021 at the Penn Stater

Conference Center and Hotel. Trials shall be conducted in May, June and July in Courtroom 1 of the Centre County Courthouse. The operation of Pennsylvania Rule of Criminal Procedure 600 shall remain suspended in Centre County until June 30, 2021, subject to constitutional limitations.

6. Criminal pre-trial conferences scheduled for May 17, 2021 and May 21, 2021 will be held as status conferences; status conferences will also be held on June 7 and 8, 2021. Attorneys will be assigned a block of time on specific days to address all of that attorney's pending cases. Defendants will not appear unless they intend to enter a guilty plea and have received permission to appear, or have been ordered to appear for a mandatory conference. The Commonwealth and Defense Attorneys shall work together to try to resolve as many cases as possible prior to the scheduled conferences.

7. The Prothonotary's office will continue to accept filings by e-filing, by regular mail and by in-person filing.

8. The Domestic Relations office will continue to accept filings only by mail and e-filing. All conferences will continue to be conducted remotely, but may be held in person at the discretion of the Director.

9. Individuals permitted access to any court facility shall be required to maintain appropriate social distancing, wear protective face masks and must comply with all safety guidelines issued by the Court and Staff.

10. Magisterial District Judges (MDJs) shall implement and follow the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) moratorium on evictions for non-payment of rent.

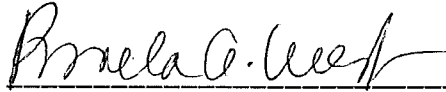
11. Only necessary and authorized individuals will be allowed entry to any court facility to minimize person-to-person contact. Members of the public, including the media, are permitted to observe court proceedings unless otherwise prohibited by law. Any person wishing to observe a court proceeding must contact the Centre County Court Administrator's Office one (1) business day prior to the proceeding in order for arrangements to be made to effectuate that

person's attendance while complying with CDC guidelines and Centre County Safety Measures.

Court Administration may be contacted by leaving a detailed message at 814-355-6727 requesting attendance at a court proceeding. Failure to make prior arrangements to attend such proceeding will result in entry to the proceeding being denied.

12. The purpose of this Administrative Order is to continue the gradual reopening of the Centre 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 "Pamela A. Ruest", written over a horizontal line.

Pamela A. Ruest, President Judge