



**OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION
43RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
MONROE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
610 MONROE STREET, SUITE 221
STROUDSBURG, PA 18360
(570) 517-3009
FAX (570) 517-3866**

**John J. Goldner
District Court Administrator**

**Deborah Rivera
Deputy Court Administrator**

**Kathy A. Sauter
Deputy Court Administrator -
Special Courts**

For Immediate Release
March 18, 2020

On Monday 3/16/2020, President Judge Margherita Patti-Worthington issued a Declaration of Judicial Emergency for the 43rd Judicial District of Pennsylvania for the period of March 16, 2020 to April 14, 2020. The Declaration of Judicial Emergency was accompanied by Emergency Administrative Orders which were geared toward mitigating the number of individuals that would enter the Courthouse and Magisterial District Courts at any particular time by staggering start times of proceedings, increasing the use of advanced communication technology where possible and reducing heavily populated events at the Courthouse, such as jury selection days.

Based on the fluidity of the COVID-19 pandemic, revised CDC recommendations and in an abundance of concern for Court users and Court and County employees, President Judge Worthington issued Emergency Administrative Order (65 AD 2020) in the early evening of March 17, 2020. This order CONTINUED all scheduled proceedings, programs, conferences, hearings and trials in the Monroe County Court of Common Pleas, 43rd Judicial District, and the Monroe County Magisterial District Courts commencing Wednesday March 18, 2020 through and including Tuesday April 14, 2020. Included within the order are guidelines for filings on Emergency Matters as well as non-emergent matters.

The County Courthouse remains open Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM but access is limited. Public Access to Judicial facilities from the close of business Wednesday March 18, 2020 through the close of business Wednesday April 1, 2020 is limited to Court and County officials and employees, attorneys with business in the judicial facility in emergency or time sensitive matters, litigants for the purpose of filing emergency petitions, parties to a scheduled case, credentialed members of the Media and others as designated by the President Judge or her designee.

Magisterial District Courts in Monroe County will be closed from the close of business Wednesday March 18, 2020 until the close of business Wednesday April 1, 2020 except for Criminal Cases involving incarcerated Defendants (as delineated in the most recent order). All hearings will be

conducted by the on-call MDJ on a rotating weekly basis using ACT (advanced communications technology).

All Court users are encouraged to read the full content of the most recent order. PDF versions of the Declaration of Judicial Emergency and all of the aforementioned Emergency Administrative Orders are available at the Court's website (<http://www.monroepacourts.us/>).

Updated information, including helpful questions and answers (FAQs) regarding topics such as payments and filing information is also available through the Court's website (<http://www.monroepacourts.us/>).

For further information contact:

John J. Goldner
District Court Administrator
(570) 517-3009
jgoldner@monroepacourts.us

cc: File