

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
MIDDLE DISTRICT**

IN RE: 31<sup>st</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT – : No. 48 MM 2020  
DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY :

\* \* \* \* \*

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE: JUDICIAL EMERGENCY ORDER : NO. 2020-J-0094

**AMENDED EMERGENCY ORDER**

**AND NOW**, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, the Court having declared a judicial emergency in the 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial District of Pennsylvania on March 17, 2020; it being the intention to protect the health and safety of the public and court employees and maintain as high a level of operations and service as possible without compromising legal rights; and in accordance with the Supreme Court’s Order of March 18, 2020, in In Re General Statewide Judicial Emergency (Nos. 531 and 532 Judicial Administration Docket);

IT IS ORDERED, effective immediately, each judicial office may conduct such business by telephone, video-conferencing, facsimile, scanning and electronic filing as it determines to be appropriate and feasible, subject to constitutional restrictions.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, effective immediately, the work of the Court shall be processed as follows:

- 1.) Civil Division:
  - a.) Arbitrations, jury trials and non-jury trials are continued through and including April 14, 2020, to a new date to be determined.
  - b.) Motions, arguments and conferences (status, pre-trial and settlement) are continued through and including April 14, 2020, to a new date to be determined.
  - c.) Emergency civil matters (e.g. injunctions, stays and matters relating to public health *involving immediate and irreparable harm*) will be scheduled in the normal course.

- d.) Non-emergency unassigned miscellaneous matters (e.g., petitions for change of name, structured settlements, etc.) are continued through and including April 14, 2020, to a new date to be determined.
- e.) Magisterial District Judge civil hearings are continued through and including April 14, 2020, to a new date to be determined by the Magisterial District Judge.
- f.) Mortgage conciliation conferences scheduled for March 18 and April 1 and 8, 2020, are continued to a new date to be determined.
- g.) License suspension hearings scheduled for April 13, 2020, are continued to a new date to be determined.
- h.) Mental health review hearings, pursuant to 50 P.S. §7302, will be scheduled in the normal course.

2.) Family Division:

- a.) Preliminary and final hearings under the Protection From Abuse Act will be scheduled in the normal course.
- b.) Indirect criminal contempt hearings under the Protection From Abuse Act are continued through and including April 14, 2020, to a new date to be determined.
- c.) Custody conferences before the Custody Hearing Officer are continued through and including April 14, 2020, to a new date to be determined.
- d.) Custody pre-trial conferences and trials are continued through and including April 14, 2020, to a new date to be determined.
- e.) Emergency custody petitions will be scheduled in the normal course.
- f.) Domestic Relations conferences, hearings and exceptions are continued through and including April 14, 2020, to a new date to be determined.
- g.) Domestic Relations bench warrants will be scheduled in the normal course.
- h.) Divorce Master's conferences and hearings are continued through and including April 14, 2020, to a new date to be determined.
- i.) Miscellaneous motions and petitions are continued through and including April 14, 2020, to a new date to be determined.

3.) Criminal Division:

- a.) Jury and non-jury trials are continued through and including April 3, 2020, to a new date to be determined.
- b.) Summary appeals and Gagnon II hearings are continued through and including April 3, 2020, to a new date to be determined.
- c.) Gagnon I hearings will be scheduled in the normal course.
- d.) Costs, fines and restitution hearings are continued through and including April 14, 2020, to a new date to be determined.
- e.) Bench warrants, body attachments and other emergency matters will be scheduled in the normal course.
- f.) All other hearings scheduled through and including April 3, 2020, are continued to a new date to be determined by the Assigned Judge.
- g.) Magisterial District Judge criminal preliminary arraignments and preliminary hearings will be scheduled in the normal course.

h.) Magisterial District Judge summary trials and truancy hearings scheduled through and including April 3, 2020, are continued to a new date to be determined by the Magisterial District Judge.

4.) Juvenile Division:

- a.) Delinquency detention hearings will be scheduled in the normal course and conducted by telephone or video-conferencing.
- b.) Delinquency adjudication and disposition hearings scheduled through and including April 3, 2020, are continued to a new date to be determined.
- c.) Delinquency review of disposition and review of placement hearings will be continued through and including April 3, 2020, to a new date to be determined.
- d.) Dependency adjudication, disposition and permanency review hearings are continued through and including April 3, 2020, to a new date to be determined.
- e.) Dependency shelter care hearings will be conducted by telephone with all counsel and parties as scheduled by Administrative Judge Reichley.

5.) Orphans' Court Division:

- a.) Emergency guardianship/incapacity petitions will be scheduled in the normal course; the alleged incapacitated person will be excused from attending such hearings.
- b.) Guardianship/incapacity hearings, audits, conferences and motions are continued through and including April 14, 2020, to a new date to be determined.
- c.) Adoptions scheduled for April 3, 2020, are continued to a new date to be determined.
- d.) Marriage License applications may be submitted on-line.
- e.) Termination of parental rights hearings scheduled for April 8 and 9, 2020, are continued to April 23 and 24, 2020.

6.) Sheriff's Sales scheduled for March 27, 2020, are continued to the next scheduled date.

7.) Naturalization ceremony scheduled for April 8, 2020, is continued to July 1, 2020.

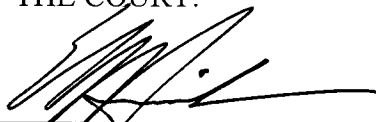
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the operation of Pa.R.Crim.P.No. 600 is suspended in the 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial District through April 3, 2020, so that the time period from the date of this order through April 3, 2020, shall be excluded from the time computation under Pa.R.Crim.P.No. 600(C) without prejudice to a criminal defendant's right to a speedy trial under the United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED time calculations for the purpose of time computation relevant to court cases and other judicial business, as well as time deadlines, are suspended during the effective dates of this order, subject to constitutional restrictions.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED additional uses of advanced communication technology may be utilized to conduct court proceedings, subject to constitutional restrictions.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED future scheduling involving essential functions is not affected by this Order.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. D. Reibman', written over a horizontal line.

EDWARD D. REIBMAN, P.J.