

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY  
TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District : NO. AD-20-2020  
Actions Pursuant to Declaration :  
of Judicial Emergency :  
2020.1 :

CLERK OF COURTS OFFICE  
2020 APR -3 AM 8:53  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PA

SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

BALDWIN, P.J.

AND NOW, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2020, the Declaration of Judicial Emergency in the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District is hereby extended through April 30, 2020. Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED:

1. Except for judicial functions deemed essential by Order of this Court, the exclusion of the public from the Schuylkill County Courthouse and Magisterial District Offices within the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District shall remain in place at least through April 30, 2020.
2. **Arbitration hearings** scheduled on April 14 and April 16, 2020, are postponed to May 21, 2020.
3. **Civil trials** scheduled to commence during the period while this order is in effect will be postponed to another date by the presiding judge.

4. Counsel and criminal defendants who had been ordered to attend **Status Conferences** on April 21 through April 24 are excused from reporting to court on said dates; however, counsel and unrepresented defendants shall make themselves available by telephone on the date and at the time they had been ordered to report so the Court may determine the status of their pending cases.

5. All time calculations for purposes of **time computation** relevant to court cases or other judicial business, as well as **deadlines**, are SUSPENDED through April 30, 2020, subject to additional orders of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Any legal papers or pleadings which are or were required to be filed between March 19, 2020, and April 30, 2020, SHALL BE DEEMED to have been timely filed if filed by May 1, 2020.

6. So long as the judicial emergency in the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District continues, each filing office of the Court shall maintain a drop box under the supervision of the Sheriff at the public entrance, where individuals may file **legal papers or pleadings** by depositing them in the appropriate drop box. The Sheriff shall notify each filing office when a legal paper or pleading is deposited in that office's box, and a representative of the office shall retrieve the document and docket it on the same day.

7. Commencement of a civil action, by *praecipe* for writ of summons, for purposes of tolling the **statute of limitations** may be accomplished by mail or placing the *praecipe* in the Prothonotary's drop box at the public entrance. The Prothonotary shall

docket each *praecipe* filed on the date it is received by mail or on the date it is deposited in the Prothonotary's drop box.

8. The operation of **Rule of Criminal Procedure 600** shall be suspended during the period of the judicial emergency in the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District.

9. To the extent possible, through the means of advanced communication technology, non-essential judicial functions **MAY AND SHOULD PROCEED** for the duration of the judicial emergency. Hearings and essential functions **SHALL BE HELD** in a manner to allow for social distancing and to minimize person-to-person contact.

10. The provisions related to **payments of costs, fines, and restitution** at the Court of Common Pleas or the Magisterial District Offices contained in the Supplemental Emergency Orders dated March 19, 2020, shall remain in effect for the duration of the judicial emergency.

BY THE COURT,

  
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