

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF
SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, PA

IN RE: 34TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT :
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER IN :
RESPONSE TO APRIL 1, 2020 :
SUPREME COURT ORDER :
DECLARING GENERAL STATEWIDE : No. 2020 - 28 AD
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY AND :
DIRECTING CLOSURE OF :
PENNSYLVANIA COURTS :

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Per the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Second Supplemental Order of April 1, 2020 that directed Pennsylvania Courts to extend closure to the public through April 30, 2020 as it relates to any non-essential judicial services, the Court of Common Pleas issues this administrative order to provide counsel, litigants and the general public with information as to continuing court functions:


1. The Court of Common Pleas is closed to the public for any non-essential judicial functions through April 30, 2020.
2. The Court of Common Pleas of Susquehanna County will continue to provide essential judicial services, including:
 - a. Emergency bail review and habeas corpus hearings;
 - b. Gagnon I hearings;
 - c. Bench warrant hearings;
 - d. Juvenile delinquency detention hearing;
 - e. Juvenile emergency shelter care and detention hearings;
 - f. Temporary protection from abuse hearings;

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- g. Final protection from abuse hearings;
 - h. Emergency petitions for child custody or pursuant to any provision of the Juvenile Act;
 - i. Emergency petitions for guardianship;
 - j. Civil mental health reviews;
 - k. Emergency equity civil matters (injunctions and stays);
 - l. Any pleading or motion relating to public health concerns and involving immediate and irreparable harm;
 - m. Any other proceeding that is approved by the President Judge as constituting an essential judicial function.
3. All hearings and proceedings involving essential judicial functions shall occur in Courtroom Number 1 of the Susquehanna County Courthouse unless arrangements are made to conduct such proceedings through advanced communication technology.
4. All litigants, attorneys and witnesses must pass through the clearance procedure implemented by Susquehanna County prior to entering the Susquehanna County Courthouse. If the security personnel determine that any person presents a potential safety risk, that person will be denied access and will not be permitted to participate in any judicial proceeding on that date.
5. Any scheduled proceeding between March 20, 2020 and April 30, 2020 that does not qualify as an essential judicial function as defined in paragraph 2 herein is hereby postponed unless the parties make arrangements through the Court

Administrator to conduct such proceeding by advanced communication technology through the court's video conferencing program and equipment.

6. Counsel and *pro se* litigants are encouraged to contact the Court Administrator to discuss the feasibility to conducting any non-essential judicial function through the use of advanced communication technology through the court's video conferencing equipment.
7. To the extent feasible, the Court of Common Pleas of Susquehanna County shall make every effort to conduct non-essential judicial proceedings through the use of advanced communication technology.
8. The Magisterial District Courts of the 34th Judicial District are closed to the public except for essential judicial functions, which are limited to:
 - a. Preliminary arrangements (bail setting) for bailable cases;
 - b. Criminal case filings and subsequent processing;
 - c. Preliminary hearings for incarcerated persons only;
 - d. Issuance of search warrants; and
 - e. Emergency protection from abuse petitions.
9. To the extent feasible, the Magisterial District Courts shall make every effort to conduct all essential judicial functions through the use of advanced communication technology.



Jason J. Legg
President Judge
34th Judicial District

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