

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN RE: EXTENSION OF
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY
THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020

: No. A.D. 32-2020
:
: Supreme Court Docket No. 44 MM 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 27th day of May, 2020, consistent with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Orders entered on March 16, 2020, April 1, 2020, and April 28, 2020, this Court's Orders of March 17, 2020, April 1, 2020, and April 24, 2020, and the Stay-at-Home Executive Order of Governor Thomas Wolf of April 1, 2020, as amended on April 20 2020, and May 7, 2020, it is hereby declared that the Lancaster County Courts remain in an ongoing Judicial Emergency due to the pandemic. Therefore, it is hereby ORDERED that all postponements and extensions as set forth in prior Orders of this Court, except as amended and/or modified herein, including the Administrative Orders dated on or subsequent to March 17, 2020, shall be extended through **June 30, 2020**, or until further order of this Court. While the Courts will be open to conduct limited judicial services, the court facilities will remain closed to the public until further notice except upon permission granted by Order of a presiding judge.

It is further ORDERED that:

1. Despite the anticipated June 1, 2020, conclusion of the statewide judicial emergency, all coronavirus related safety precautions, protocols and requirements previously described in this Court's prior Administrative Orders will continue to remain valid and applicable to Lancaster County court operations.

CLERK OF COURTS
2020 MAY 27 AM 10:59
LANCASTER COUNTY, PA

2. Criminal jury trials scheduled for July 2020 are continued to August 2020. Criminal nonjury trials may be scheduled with the permission of the President Judge.

3. All criminal cases continued due to this Judicial Emergency shall be continued by the Court and shall constitute excludable time for purposes of the application of Pennsylvania Rule of Criminal Procedure 600, subject to constitutional limitations. See Pa.R.Crim.P. 600(C)(1); Pa.R.Crim.P. 600 cmt. See also **Commonwealth v. Mills**, 640 Pa. 118, 122, 162 A.3d 323, 325 (2017); **Commonwealth v. Bradford**, 616 Pa. 122, 141, 46 A.3d 693, 705 (2012).

4. Civil jury trials scheduled for July and August 2020 shall be rescheduled by the presiding judge after consultation with the President Judge. Civil nonjury trials may be scheduled with permission of the President Judge.

5. The tolling of time requirements, time limitations or filing deadlines imposed by court order or local rule during the period of time covered by the Judicial Emergency will expire on May 31, 2020. Any criminal, civil, family or orphans' court legal papers or pleadings which were required to be filed between March 18, 2020 and April 30, 2020, shall be deemed timely filed if they are filed within 60 days of the original filing deadline. Any such legal papers or pleadings which are/were required to be filed between May 1, 2020 and May 31, 2020, shall be deemed timely filed if they are filed within 30 days of the original filing deadline. Further extensions of time may be granted by stipulation of the parties, or by the presiding judge upon motion of a party for good cause shown.

6. Each presiding judge or Magisterial District Court may conduct business as it determines to be appropriate and feasible and are encouraged to consider deciding

matters on the papers and/or to conduct court proceedings through the use of advanced communication technologies, subject to constitutional limitations. Any state or local rule that impedes a judge's ability to use available technologies to limit in-person contact is suspended through June 30, 2020, or until further Order of this Court. Any plan to resume proceedings that require personal appearances shall be approved by the President Judge and shall adhere to the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines.

7. When deemed appropriate and necessary, hearings requiring personal appearances may be scheduled at the discretion of the assigned judge. When parties, attorneys or witnesses are in congregate settings, social distancing shall be observed. If a party objects to a hearing by other electronic means, a motion shall be filed in advance as to the reason why alternative electronic means shall not be used. Similarly, if a party objects to a hearing requiring personal appearance, a motion shall be filed in advance as to the reason for the objection to personal appearance.

8. The Sheriff's Sale scheduled for July 29, 2020, shall take place in Courtroom A of the Lancaster County Courthouse according to the protocols established by the Office of Court Administration and the Sheriff's Office, and consistent with guidelines from the CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

9. The purpose of this Administrative Order is to begin the gradual re-opening of the Lancaster County Court system in a safe, efficient manner while adhering to CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines in order to protect all court personnel, court users and the public. The Court's prior Administrative

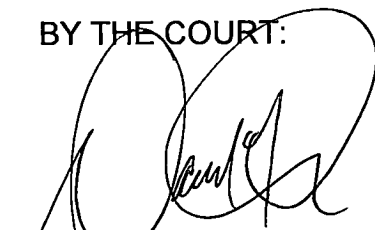
Orders, not inconsistent with this Order, shall remain in full force and effect through the duration of the Judicial Emergency.

10. Detailed protocols for the handling of cases in each division of the Court will be provided on the Court's Website. Such protocols shall supersede the limitations imposed on court functions by all previous Administrative Orders

11. Individuals entering any court facility shall be required to follow the Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines for access to public buildings, including appropriate social distancing, wearing protective face masks in common areas, and complying with all safety directives provided by the Court or County staff. Anyone requesting an exemption from the Pennsylvania Department of Health requirement that face coverings be worn in public places due to medical reasons should contact the Court ADA Coordinator identified below as soon as possible, but no later than three (3) days before the scheduled event.

Court of Common Pleas ADA Coordinator
Office of District Court Administration
50 North Duke Street
P.O. Box 83480
Lancaster, PA 17608-3480
Voice (717) 299-8041
Relay Service TTY/TDD 711 or (800) 654-5984
FAX (717) 295-3599
Email CourtADACoordinator@co.lancaster.pa.us

BY THE COURT:



DAVID L. ASHWORTH
PRESIDENT JUDGE

Attest: *Donna Lora, deputy*

Copies to: Lancaster County Board of Judges
Lancaster County Magisterial District Judges
Lancaster County District Court Administrator
Lancaster County Clerk of Courts
Lancaster County Prothonotary
Lancaster County Register of Wills
Lancaster County Clerk of the Orphans' Court
Lancaster County Sheriff
Lancaster County District Attorney
Lancaster County Public Defender
Lancaster County Adult Probation & Parole Services
Lancaster County Office of Juvenile Probation
Lancaster County Children and Youth Social Service Agency
Lancaster County Prison
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners
Lancaster County Solicitor