

FILED IN MERCER COUNTY

2020 MAY 29 AM 10:07

MARY JO BASILONE DEPRETA  
CLERK AND REGISTER

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF MERCER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: THIRTY-FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT :

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS :

No. 2020 - AD- 16

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of MAY, 2020, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has issued an Order dated May 27, 2020 declaring that its previous Order declaring a statewide judicial emergency ceases as of June 1, 2020. Furthermore, this Court's previous Administrative Orders declaring a local judicial emergency are set to expire May 31, 2020. The Supreme Court's Order of May 27, 2020 authorizes president judges to continue exercising emergency powers pursuant to Rule 1952(B)(2). In accordance with this authorization, IT IS THE ORDER OF COURT as follows:

1. The Mercer County Court of Common Pleas will be open for all business subject to the following:

A. All persons present, including parties, attorneys, court staff, sheriff deputies, and others shall wear masks, practice social distancing, use hand sanitizer, and take all other precautions.

B. Courtrooms No. 1 and 2 shall be utilized for any hearings with a larger number of people.

C. Courts will continue to use advanced technology communications to the greatest extent possible subject to state and federal constitutional requirements.

2. Jury trials will be held beginning the June 2020 trial term commencing on June 9, 2020 subject to the following:

A. The number of prospective jurors at any one time will be limited to the least amount necessary as determined by the Court Administrator and President Judge to ensure that a fair jury is obtained.

B. Courtrooms No. 1 and 2 will be utilized for any trials.

C. Additional seating will be arranged to ensure that jurors can practice social distancing.

D. Trial jurors will use jury rooms 1 and 2 during breaks but will hold deliberations in Courtroom No. 3 or 4.

E. All parties shall wear masks, practice social distancing, use hand sanitizer, and take all other precautions.

F. Any additional precautions the President Judge may determine for the health and safety of all persons present.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert G. Yeatts', written over a horizontal line.

P.J.

Robert G. Yeatts, President Judge

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