

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

CLERK OF COURTS OFFICE  
2020 JUN 11 AM 9:02  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PA

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

SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

BALDWIN, P.J.

AND NOW, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020, while the threat from the COVID-19 virus has diminished, it has not yet subsided to the point that the judicial emergency necessitated by the virus may be deemed to have fully ceased. Therefore, the declaration of emergency is extended in the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District until June 29, 2020, but the Court's response thereto shall be modified as set forth herein.

During this extension of judicial emergency, it is the intention of the Court to move toward the normal operation of all judicial proceedings subject to some modifications in order to allow for appropriate social distancing and the safeguarding of the health and safety of court and county personnel, parties, witnesses, counsel, and the public.

All judicial proceedings, to the extent reasonably possible, and in a manner consistent with constitutional requirements, shall be conducted through the utilization of advanced communication technologies (hereinafter "ACT"). In-person proceedings may

be utilized for judicial proceedings that cannot reasonably be conducted by the use of ACT and must be conducted in a manner that allows for appropriate social distancing and minimization of in-person contact.

### **I. Personal Safety**

Beginning June 15, 2020, visitors may be admitted to the Schuylkill County Courthouse, all Magisterial District Courts, and Adult Probation Office for the purpose of conducting or participating in court or county business and to observe public proceedings. The number of visitors or participants admitted at one time to any judicial or county office shall be limited in a manner that allows for appropriate social distancing. Members of the press shall be admitted to observe any public proceeding.

Everyone shall submit to a non-invasive temperature check when entering the Courthouse, Magisterial District Courts, or other County facilities, and no one shall be admitted without wearing a protective face covering. Said face covering shall be worn at all times in the courtrooms, hallways, and common areas of all County facilities. In the event a visitor refuses to wear a protective face covering or to submit to a non-invasive temperature check, access to the building shall be refused. If a visitor submits to a temperature check and displays an elevated temperature or other apparent virus symptoms, the visitor shall be directed by the deputy sheriff monitoring the entrance to wait outside the building while the presiding judge or county official is contacted for

further direction. The requirement of wearing a protective face covering shall not apply to children under two years old or to individuals who cannot wear the face covering due to a medical condition.

Those individuals admitted to the Courthouse, Magisterial District Courts, and County offices shall directly leave the building at the conclusion of the judicial proceeding or county business that necessitated their entrance to the Court or County facility.

Courthouse employees shall remain in their offices unless their duties require them to go to other offices within the Courthouse, in which case, they must return to their office as soon as their business in other offices is concluded.

Although the Courthouse canteen will be open for the sale of food or drink, no one may assemble, congregate, or make use of the tables and chairs in the area adjacent to the canteen.

When a court official finds it necessary for an in-person appearance of a party, witness, or counsel, such appearances shall be scheduled so as to permit social distancing in the courtroom or hearing room and to prevent congregating in the hallways.

The Courthouse point of entry and the supervision of individuals within the Courthouse shall be under the direction, supervision, and control of Sheriff Joseph Groody and his deputies, who are responsible for assuring compliance with this Administrative Order.

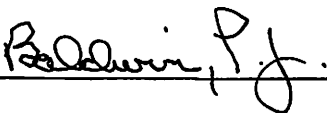
## **II. Court Filings**

So long as the judicial emergency continues in the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District, each filing office of the Court shall maintain a drop box under the supervision of the Sheriff at the public entrance. Litigants and counsel may file legal papers or pleadings directly in the appropriate filing office or may deposit them in that office's drop box. The Sheriff shall notify each filing office when a filing is deposited in its drop box, and a representative of the office shall retrieve the document and docket it as filed the same day.

## **III. Criminal Matters**

Pa.R.Crim.P. 119, to the extent it restricts, directly or indirectly, the use of ACT for preliminary hearings, sentencing hearings, and parole, probation, and intermediate punishment revocation hearings is suspended through June 28, 2020.

BY THE COURT,

  
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