

**IN THE SUPREME COURT PENNSYLVANIA
MIDDLE DISTRICT**

IN RE: 20th Judicial District – : No. 33-MM-2020
Declaration of Judicial Emergency :


SIXTH EXTENDED DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

Pursuant to the Supreme Court's Orders dated March 16, 2020, April 1, 2020, April 28, 2020, and May 27, 2020 (Nos. 531 and 532 Judicial Administration Docket), the judicial emergency declared in the 20th Judicial District of Pennsylvania on March 16, 2020, is hereby extended to June 30, 2021. This Sixth Extended Declaration shall be self-effectuating, per the Supreme Court's Order of May 27, 2020.

For the reasons set forth in the prior Declarations, and in light of the ongoing and continually changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 20th Judicial District takes the following actions:

1. The operation of Rule of Criminal Procedure 600, relating to speedy trials, remains suspended for all criminal matters in the 20th Judicial District until June 30, 2021.
 - a. The 20th Judicial District has continued to conduct trials during the judicial emergency as able, and has resumed conducting criminal jury trials in addition to bench trials. However, the Court finds the continued suspension of Rule 600 to be necessary, in light of its past experience with unanticipated and unforeseen circumstances limiting or outright terminating the availability of defendants, witnesses, counsel, and other necessary parties on the eve of trial.
 - b. The Court will reevaluate the continued suspension of Rule 600 as guidance from public health officials changes and as vaccination against COVID-19 becomes more common. Notice of any modification or rescission of such suspension prior to June 30, 2021, will be provided in the same manner as this Sixth Extended Declaration.

2. Criminal jury trials will continue to be scheduled and conducted pursuant to the modified practices used for the October 2020 and March 2021 trial terms, subject to any modifications necessitated by changing conditions. All civil jury trials remain suspended until June 30, 2021.
3. The Court of Common Pleas has resumed scheduling and conducting proceedings in-person. Certain proceedings will continue to be conducted remotely, using advanced communication technology (“ACT”). The determination of whether a particular proceeding will occur in-person or via ACT will be at the Court’s discretion, though a party may petition for the use of one format over the other. Appearance before the Court via ACT is **mandatory** for any participant in a proceeding scheduled by the Court in that manner.
4. The Magisterial District Courts will continue to conduct all proceedings remotely via ACT, subject to such exceptions as the President Judge may determine from time to time.
5. The transportation of criminal defendants between correctional facilities and court facilities will continue to be suspended until June 30, 2021, subject to such exceptions as the Court may grant from time to time.
6. To the extent that this Sixth Extended Declaration conflicts with any prior emergency declaration of the 20th Judicial District, or any Administrative Order issued thereunder, this Declaration shall control. The Court will issue further Administrative Orders modifying operations under the judicial emergency from time to time, as necessary to respond to changing conditions and address best-practices guidance, and notice of such Administrative Orders will be provided in the same manner as for all other emergency Administrative Orders.


George N. Zanic, President Judge
Executed April 21, 2021, but effective as
of March 31, 2021