

No. 36 MM 2020

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
OF LUZERNE COUNTY**

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IN RE: 11<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT : NO: 4174 of 2020  
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES : NO: 403 MD 2020

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**ORDER**

AND NOW, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020, whereas Pennsylvania Courts are physically closed to the public due to the health crisis created by COVID-19, much can be done to advance civil litigation in a safe manner consistent with appropriate social distancing practices. During the period of the Judicial Emergency declared by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and consistent with the Supreme Court's Supplemental Order issued April 1, 2020 (Nos. 531 and 532 Judicial Administration docket) and this Court's Order of March 17, 2020 and Addendums thereto, the Court HEREBY DIRECTS as follows:

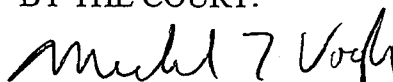
1. The electronic filing system is open for the filing and docketing of all legal papers.
2. To the extent practicable parties shall engage in discovery consistent with governing scheduling orders. This includes all forms of discovery practice including depositions. No party shall use the current health crisis for advantage in the discovery process.
3. To the extent practicable, depositions should be conducted remotely through telephone, videoconference, or similar technology. Court reporters need not be present in the same location as witnesses and/or counsel, consistent with Governor Wolf's Order dated March 21, 2020.

Depositions of and required appearances for doctors, nurses, or other healthcare professionals who are substantially involved in responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency are suspended. LUZ CVT CRRP'2041122

IT IS FURTHER DIRECTED that this Order shall be posted in a public location in all Court facilities, shall be made available on the County and Court website and shall be provided to the Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association for publication in the Luzerne County Legal Register.

COMPLIANCE HEREWITH IS DIRECTED.

BY THE COURT:



MICHAEL T. VOUGH, P.J.

Copies To:

All Judges of the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
All MDJ Offices  
Paul Hindmarsh – Interim District Court Administrator  
Court Administration  
David Pedri, Esquire – Luzerne County Manager  
Romilda Crocamo, Esquire – Luzerne County Solicitor  
Stephanie Salavantis, Esquire – Luzerne County District Attorney  
Steven Greenwald, Esquire – Luzerne County Public Defender  
John Hakim, Esquire – Luzerne County Office of Law