

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

IN RE: 21st Judicial District : NO. AD-20-2020
Actions Pursuant to Declaration :
of Judicial Emergency :
2021.1 :

APPLICATION PURSUANT TO Pa.R.J.A. 1952

BALDWIN, P.J.

Pursuant to Pa.R.J.A. 1952 (B)(2)(m), I am hereby respectfully requesting authorization from the Supreme Court to suspend Pa.R.Crim.P. 119 within the Twenty-First Judicial District until August 31, 2021. There is still a need to use simultaneous audio-visual communication for hearings involving state and county inmates.

Due to overcrowding, our county houses some of our inmates in four other county prisons. We also have two state prisons in the county, which generate a significant number of criminal cases. Many of those state inmates who are charged with new offenses are then transferred to other, more distant state correctional facilities. All of these institutions, including the Schuylkill County Prison, have many inmates who have not been vaccinated. The prisons continue to require COVID testing and quarantining before accepting transfers.

These COVID-related circumstances make it very difficult to bring inmates to appear in person before our Court for preliminary hearings, sentencing hearings, and probation, parole, and intermediate punishment revocation hearings.

On behalf of our Court, I am asking for authority to suspend Pa.R.Crim.P. 119 until August 31, 2021.

Dated: 6-25-21


William E. Baldwin, President Judge