

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, BLAIR COUNTY
24TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

IN RE: 24TH Judicial District –
Request Pursuant to Pa.R.J.A. 1952(B)(2)
(m) for Judicial Emergency Powers
to Conduct Electronic Proceedings.

Supreme Court:
No. 20 WM 2020
Blair County No.:
No. 2020 MD 0003

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

AND NOW, this 30th day of June, 2021, Elizabeth A. Doyle, President Judge of the 24th Judicial District of Pennsylvania, hereby requests the temporary suspension or modification of statewide rules, by Order of the Supreme Court pursuant to Pa.R.J.A. 1952(B)(2)(m) as follows:

1. Suspension
 - a. To suspend Pa. R. Crim. Proc. 119 insofar as it requires personal appearance by defendants and prohibits conducting proceedings remotely by advanced communication technology (ACT), applied to conducting or waiving preliminary hearings, and as applied to conducting bench warrant hearings, misdemeanor sentencing procedures, and felony sentencings where no victim will be present, including Gagnon II proceedings. An individual judge may require in person appearance in his or her discretion.
 - b. To suspend any rule that prevents electronic filing of cases with our Prothonotary or clerk of courts.

This suspension is requested because of the COVID-19 pandemic which has affected our ability to process criminal cases through our system. These procedures have worked well during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we have received no complaints from participants. I cannot overestimate the value of such proceedings in recovering from a backlog of cases.

Judges will be present at the courthouse (or MDJ offices), even if others are participating remotely.

Thank you for consideration of my application.

Date: June 30, 2021



Honorable Elizabeth A. Doyle
President Judge, Court of Common Pleas
24th Judicial District of Pennsylvania
Blair County