

IN RE: BUSINESS OF COURT
ORDER RE; PANDEMIC
PROCEDURES AND SUSPENDING
JURY TRIALS EFFECTIVE
JANUARY 10, 2022,

IN THE COURT OF COMMON
PLEAS FOR THE 26TH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT, COLUMBIA /MONTGOMERY
COUNTIES PENNSYLVANIA
(PA SUPREME COURT # 41-MM-
2020)

AD-2-2022

FILED
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2022 JAN 10 A 9 4

CLERK OF COURTS
COUNTY OF COLUMBIA

ORDER

AND NOW, this 10th day of January, 2022, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED
AND DECREED as follows:

1. All civil and criminal jury selections and trials are suspended pending further Order of Court. It is anticipated that they will resume in March 2022, depending upon public health issues. Jurors shall not appear as previously directed.
2. Litigants are ordered to appear as previously scheduled for the all other scheduled proceedings, including call of the trial list.
3. Unless otherwise authorized by the court, only attorneys, witnesses, litigants, media, and court personnel shall be permitted to enter a courtroom, hearing room, Magisterial District Court Offices and courtrooms during any court proceeding.
4. Remote proceedings shall continue to be utilized within the discretion of each judge and provided that there is no legal prohibition. For example, preliminary hearings, violation hearings, and sentencing hearings may continue to be held remotely with the consent of the parties.


5. The court continues to encourage all persons to observe and use health safety protocols as suggested by the CDC and other public health officials. Masks are required to be worn in courtrooms, hearing rooms, and common areas in court facilities.

6. The court continues to encourage court staff, counsel, litigants, and all others involved in the court process to permanently adopt efficient procedures developed during the court emergency and to discard inefficiencies that may have been insidiously engrained in the court culture.

7. 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.

COMPLIANCE HEREWITH IS DIRECTED.

BY THE COURT:


P.J.

THOMAS A. JAMES