

SANDRA KURT

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SUMMIT COUNTY
CLERK OF COURTS

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
GENERAL DIVISION
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

MISC 2020 700

**UPDATED EMERGENCY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19
PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS
MARCH 24, 2020**

Administrative Judge of the Summit County Court of Common Pleas. Amy Corrigan

Jones, hereby makes the following Findings of Fact:

1. On March 9, 2020 Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D “Declaring a State of Emergency” in response to the growing COVID-19 public health crisis.
2. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 to be a global “pandemic” requiring “urgent and aggressive action” to control the spread of the virus.
3. President Donald Trump proclaimed and declared a state of emergency for the United States of America on March 13, 2020.
4. The Summit County Court of Common Pleas General Division Judges addressed the threat of COVID-19 to the public health in Misc. Order 2020-700, filed on March 13, 2020, and incorporated and referenced herein.
5. On March 13, 2020, all trials were suspended for fourteen days up and through March 27, 2020, with the exception of State vs. Stanley Ford. This timeframe may be extended if deemed necessary and appropriate.
6. On March 13, 2020, the Court ordered that inmates shall not be transported from the Summit County Jail to the Summit County Courthouse for fourteen days up and through March 27, 2020. This timeframe may be extended if deemed necessary and appropriate.

7. On March 13, 2020, the Court ordered that all criminal matters with incarcerated individuals other than Stanley Ford shall be conducted via video conference in coordination with the Summit County Jail for fourteen days up and through March 27, 2020. This timeframe may be extended if deemed necessary and appropriate.
8. On March 13, 2020, the Court ordered that all civil matters shall be conducted by telephone or video conference for fourteen days up and through March 27, 2020. This timeframe may be extended if deemed necessary and appropriate.
9. On March 13, 2020, the Court ordered that all mediations shall be continued for fourteen days up and through March 27, 2020. This timeframe may be extended if deemed necessary and appropriate.
10. On March 13, 2020, the Court ordered that all probationers shall report via telephone for fourteen days up and through March 27, 2020. This timeframe may be extended if deemed necessary and appropriate.
11. To protect the public health by reducing the spread of COVID-19, Governor DeWine limited public gatherings to less than 50 persons as of March 16, 2020.
12. On March 16, 2020, the President of the United States recommended that public gatherings be restricted to no more than 10 persons.
13. On March 17, 2020, the Ohio Director of Public Health, Amy Acton, M.D. MPH, issued an order in accordance with President Trump's recommendations that public gatherings be restricted to no more than 10 persons.
14. On March 19, 2020, the Court issued Misc. Order 700 enumerating further restrictions in the General Division. That Order is incorporated and referenced herein.
15. On March 20, 2020, the Court issued Misc. Order 700 suspending all Sheriff Sales up and through April 24, 2020. That Order is incorporated and referenced herein.

16. On March 22, 2020, the Ohio Director of Public Health, Amy Acton, M.D. MPH, issued a “Stay at Home’ order. That Order is incorporated and referenced herein.

17. Both the United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio and the United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio have issued orders addressing the public health emergency in response to the spread of COVID-19. Those Orders are incorporated and referenced herein.

The Court has considered the guidance and orders of the Governor of Ohio, the President of the United States, the United States District Courts, the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and local public health authorities to effectuate the public health goals and to serve the public.

In response to the public health emergency; to reduce the substantial health risks to the community; to maintain essential court functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court,

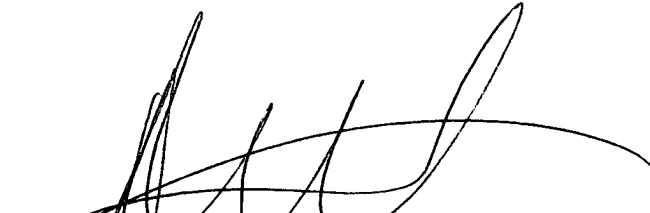
THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The General Division and all individuals herein shall function under current social distancing protocols as ordered by the Governor of Ohio and should the Governor order further modifications; all individuals within the courthouse shall abide by said protocols.
2. At no time in the General Division shall there be more than 10 individuals in any courtroom, office, conference room, or other space that is considered to be confined, as determined by the Administrative Judge. The only exception shall be for purposes of a Judge’s meeting, if approved by a majority of the judges.

3. All trials are suspended up and through April 10, 2020, with the exception of State vs. Stanley Ford. This timeframe may be extended if deemed necessary and appropriate.
4. Inmates shall not be transported from the Summit County Jail to the Summit County Courthouse up and through April 10, 2020. This timeframe may be extended if deemed necessary and appropriate.
5. All criminal matters with incarcerated individuals other than Stanley Ford shall be conducted via video conference in coordination with the Summit County Jail up and through April 10, 2020. This timeframe may be extended if deemed necessary and appropriate.
6. All criminal matters involving out of custody defendants shall be conducted using either telephonic methods or video conferencing methods up and through April 10, 2020. This timeframe may be extended if deemed necessary and appropriate.
7. All arraignments involving out of custody defendants shall be postponed or continued up and through April 10, 2020. This timeframe may be extended if deemed necessary and appropriate.
8. All civil matters shall be conducted by telephone or video conference up and through April 10, 2020. This timeframe may be extended if deemed necessary and appropriate.
9. All mediations shall be continued up and through April 10, 2020, unless all parties agree to conduct mediations utilizing teleconferencing or another technology alternative. This timeframe may be extended if deemed necessary and appropriate.
10. All probationers shall report via telephone or video conference up and through April 10, 2020. This timeframe may be extended if deemed necessary and appropriate.
11. The public health emergency shall be considered a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary by assigned Judges on a case-by-case basis.

12. The General Division shall continue to have the lawful authority, within constitutional limits, to do and direct to be done all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice for the duration of the declared public health emergency.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



**AMY CORRIGALL JONES
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
GENERAL DIVISION**