

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ARMSTRONG COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
ADMINISTRATIVE DOCKET

IN RE: 33rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT)
)
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS) No. AD - 2020-000004- PJ
) 31 WM 2020
)
)

ORDER OF COURT

AND NOW, this 7th day of December, 2020, consistent with the Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania dated May 27, 2020, this Court declares a continued judicial emergency in the Thirty-Third (33rd) Judicial District of Pennsylvania, limited to only those matters and timeframes as set forth below, which shall expire on their own. Pursuant to Pa. R. J. A. No. 1952(B)(2), the Court **ORDERS** and **DIRECTS** as follows:

1. Because of the occurrence of COVID-19 cases in the Armstrong County Courthouse and court-related offices, the Armstrong County Courts and associated offices will be working on a limited in-person basis from the date of this Order through January 3, 2021. Therefore, court and associated operations will be limited through January 3, 2021, as set forth below:

General Provisions

2. All time calculations for the purposes of time computation relevant to court cases or other judicial business, including statutes of limitation, Rule 600 in criminal matters, and general time deadlines, are suspended subject to

constitutional restrictions.

3. Additional uses of advanced communication technology to conduct court proceedings is authorized subject to constitutional restrictions.

4. The Court will liberally grant requests for continuances in any matter for health-related reasons.

5. From the date of this order until further Order of Court, all court participants, including parties, lawyers, staff, police officers, jurors, and witnesses, shall continue to wear face masks at all times while in the courthouse and shall comply with the social distancing and safety protocols as recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Pennsylvania Department of Health or as otherwise specifically ordered and directed by this Court.

Civil/Orphans' Court Division

6. Jury trials are suspended for the months of December 2020 and January and February 2021, and non-jury trials may be suspended on a case by case basis.

7. Motions heard by the designated Motions Judge shall be restricted to requests for injunctive relief relating to public health concerns or any other emergency motion.

8. Litigants with consented-to-motions may mail such motions to Court Administration or email them to bcbenton@co.armstrong.pa.us. Any consented-to motions must include signatures of all parties or their counsel. If signatures are not possible, such motions must include an affidavit executed by the moving party

indicating that all parties or their counsel have been notified of, and consent to, the relief requested in the motion. Any motions sent by email must be accompanied by simultaneously-mailed hard-copy originals sent to the Prothonotary/Clerk of Court's office.

9. In any matter that already has been assigned to a judge, all inquiries regarding currently-scheduled proceedings should be addressed with that judge's chambers.

10. Unless otherwise indicated by the Court, all other civil matters will be continued.

Criminal Division

11. All court events, except as indicated below, in all courtrooms will be postponed.

12. Bail hearings, bail revocations, probation/parole revocations (incarcerated individuals only), failure to appear ("FTA") hearings, and any other not continued criminal proceedings will be heard.

13. The Court will continue to process warrant requests as normal.

14. Criminal case status conferences, formal arraignments, plea court, sentence court, ARD court, summary appeals, license suspension appeals, and parole/probation revocation hearings (*Gagnon II*) will be rescheduled.

15. Jury trials are suspended for the months of December 2020 and January and February 2021, and non-jury trials may be suspended on a case by case basis.

Family Division

16. Unless otherwise indicated by the Court, all family court matters will be continued.

17. All Conciliation conferences will be continued unless otherwise scheduled by the Conciliation Conference Officer.

18. Juvenile Dependency matters will be continued, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. For any non-continued proceeding, all necessary parties and counsel shall appear for disposition, adjudication, review, and shelter hearings, unless otherwise directed.

Protection from Abuse

19. Protection from Abuse ("PFA") matters will be heard as normal.

Juvenile Delinquency


20. Juvenile delinquency matters shall be handled on a case by case basis. Parties should appear for all juvenile delinquency matters scheduled before the Court, unless otherwise notified.

Magisterial District Courts

21. All currently-scheduled cases in the Magisterial District Courts are postponed. Individual magistrates may reschedule as they deem appropriate to a date after the expiration of this order. The following functions shall continue: Preliminary arraignments; Criminal case filings; Search warrant requests; Emergency protection from abuse proceedings; on-call responsibilities; and Preliminary hearings for incarcerated individuals only.

22. All time calculations relevant to Magisterial District Court proceedings located in the Pennsylvania Rules of Conduct, Office Standards for Civil Procedure for Magisterial District Judges and the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure shall be suspended.

BY THE COURT:


_____, P. J.
James J. Panchik, President Judge

UCB
12-7-20