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

IN RE: 33rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT	)	
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS	)	No. AD · 2020 · 0000004 · PJ
	)	

## ORDER OF COURT

AND NOW, this 19th day of March 2020, consistent with the Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania dated March 18, 2020, this Court hereby implements and ORDERS the following measures, to take effect at the close of business on March 19, 2020. The Court's prior order of March 17, 2020, shall remain in full force and effect during its stated effective period. The measures to be taken hereunder supplement the Court's directives in that order and shall continue through April 3, 2020.

### Court Restrictions and Essential Function Exceptions

1. The Court of Common Pleas of Armstrong County and the four Magisterial District Courts in this jurisdiction shall be CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC as of the close of business on March 19, 2020. NO PERSON who does not have court business to attend for one of the essential functions enumerated below shall be admitted to any court office, including members of the general public, litigants, criminal defendants, and attorneys and their staff. This restriction includes access to submit court filings other than those to initiate or which regard one of the

essential functions enumerated below. Court offices may, in their discretion, continue to process for filing any documents received by mail.

2. Essential functions of the Court that will continue include the following:

#### a. Courts of Common Pleas

- i. Emergency bail review and revocation proceedings;
- ii. Gagnon I hearings;
- iii. Habeas corpus proceedings, where the defendant is incarcerated;
- iv. Bench warrant and failure to appear ("FTA") proceedings;
- v. Juvenile delinquency detention hearings;
- vi. Juvenile dependency shelter, adjudication, and disposition hearings;
- vii. Temporary protection from abuse hearings;
- viii. Emergency custody petitions;
- ix. Emergency guardianship petitions;
- x. Mental health review hearings;
- xi. Requests for injunctive relief where immediate and irreparable injury is threatened;

#### b. Magisterial District Courts

i. Preliminary arraignments;

- ii. Criminal case filings;
- iii. Search warrant requests;
- iv. Emergency protection from abuse proceedings;
- v. Preliminary hearings for incarcerated individuals only.

  Paragraphs 18 and 19 of this Court's prior March 17,

  2020, Order hereby are amended to provide for the
  occurrence of preliminary hearings for incarcerated
  individuals, to be scheduled by the Magisterial District
  Judges at their discretion.
- vi. On call responsibilities.
- 3. Regularly-scheduled motions court on Tuesday and Friday mornings shall proceed as scheduled. No matters except for those enumerated above shall come before the Court in motions court.
- 4. In person probation and parole meetings hereby are suspended.

  Meetings by telephone may be performed at the discretion of individual probation officers.

#### Court Access Policies

- 5. For the duration of this Order, all proceedings shall be scheduled and take place in Courtroom No. 1 of the Armstrong County Courthouse.
- 6. There shall be no in-chamber conferences with litigants or counsel. All proceedings shall occur in open court.

- 7. Attorney-client rooms will be closed to the public. Attorneys shall conference with their clients in the hallway or in the courtroom.
- 8. Court employees shall utilize telephone communication as much as possible and practice social distancing.

BY THE COURT:

James J. Panchik, President Judge