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CLERK OF COURTS
BROWN COUNTY, OHIO

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BROWN COUNTY COURT
CLERK OF COURTS
L. CLARK GRAY

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CLERK OF COURTS IN THE COURTS OF BROWN COUNTY, OHIO

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, GENERAL AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISIONS	:	JUDGE SCOTT T. GUSWEILER COMMON PLEAS NO. <u>CN: 00000865</u>
	:	
MUNICIPAL COURT	:	JUDGE JOSEPH M. WORLEY MUNICIPAL NO. <u>MN: 0000355</u>
	:	
TEMPORARY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS	:	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The Judge of the Brown County Court of Common Pleas and the Judge of the Brown County Municipal Court make 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.

Based upon these findings, the severity of risk posed to the public, and meetings with justice partners, the General Division of the Court of Common Pleas and the Municipal Court have developed a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis escalates. The continuum of responses is intended to protect public health, to maintain essential court functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Courts.

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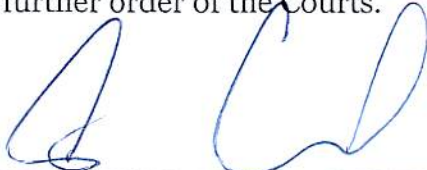
THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The local rules of each court may be temporarily adapted to allow court flexibility, within constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. All matters scheduled for trial before either court, including any associated deadlines, are continued, and will be rescheduled after May 18, 2020 pending further order of the court. Case by case exceptions to continuances may be ordered by the court after consultation with counsel.
3. The Courts shall attempt to minimize the amount of travel and in person interaction of litigants, attorneys, witnesses, jurors, law enforcement personnel, and court staff by continuing proceedings or conducting proceedings, when practical, by remote video or telephone conferences.
4. This order does not affect the court's consideration of matters that can be resolved upon motion without oral argument.
5. The security policies and procedures for each court may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions. Access may be temporarily refused by security staff to any visibly ill person and anyone that does not have business with the Court.
6. Courtroom attendance shall be limited to attorneys, parties, and necessary witnesses.
7. Pending further order of the court, grand jury proceedings are limited to those cases considered necessary to protect the safety of the community. The seating of the May 2020 term of the grand jury may take place at a later date. In that case, service of the current January 2020 term will be extended pending further order of the Court.

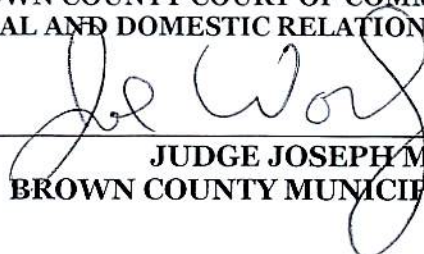
8. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of “just cause” for continuances deemed necessary by assigned judges on a case-by-case basis.
9. The Courts will continue to hear cases involving protection orders.
10. The Courts hereby authorize the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings, which would be feasible for use based upon the nature of the action or proceeding.
11. The Courts will 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.
12. The Courts will maintain common sense procedures in dealing with the members of the bar and the public to reduce personal contact such as phone conferences, social distancing, and conducting business remotely when practical.
13. Attorneys are encouraged to utilize facsimile filing. Contact the appropriate assignment commissioner for questions.
14. Further instruction regarding payment to the Municipal Court can be found on the Court’s website. <https://www.clerkofcourtsbrowncountyohio.org/homeMC.php>

This order shall remain in effect until further order of the Courts.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


3/17/2020

JUDGE SCOTT T. GUSWEILER
BROWN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
GENERAL AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION


3-17-2020

JUDGE JOSEPH M. WORLEY
BROWN COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT

TO THE CLERK:

Serve the order to the following individuals via regular ordinary mail:

Supreme Court of Ohio
Ohio Judicial Conference
65 South Front Street, 4th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-3431

Brown County Prosecutor's Office
Zac Corbin, Prosecutor
(via email by the Court Administrator)

Brown County Sheriff's Office
Chief Deputy Chris Hodges
(via BCSO box)

Brown County Health Department
Kyle Arn, Health Commissioner
(via email by the Court Administrator)

Brown County Board of Commissioners
Barry Woodruff, President
(via email by the Court Administrator)

Brown County Press
Wayne Gates, Editor
(via email by the Court Administrator)

Brown County Bar Association President
(via email by the Court Administrator)