

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
KNOX COUNTY, OHIO
RICHARD D. WETZEL, JUDGE**

FILED
KNOX COUNTY
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
2020 MAR 17 PM 3:13
CHRISTY MILLIGAN STATON
CLERK OF COURTS

IN RE: COVID19 VIRUS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

**JOURNAL ENTRY FOR TEMPORARY EMERGENCY COURT OPERATIONS IN
ALL CIVIL AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES FOR COVID-19 RISKS**

The matter of public health considerations and responses to the COVID-19 virus, and current declarations of the President of the United States, and the Governor of the State of Ohio, are before the Court this 17th day of March 2020.

In order for the Court to assist all state and local agencies in maintaining public health and safety; to assist our local law enforcement and healthcare community in preserving all available resources; to assure the continuance of essential Court functions; and to assure the protection of the Constitutional rights of all individuals subject to the jurisdiction of this Court; upon the Court's own motion, the following Temporary Emergency Order is hereby effective immediately for all civil and domestic relations cases pending in this Court, for the duration of the declared public health emergency and until modified or rescinded by this Court.

All settlement conferences and status hearings and pretrial hearings in civil and domestic relations cases pending in this court shall be conducted by telephone conference beginning March 17, 2020. This Order shall not apply to hearings on civil protection orders. All other non-emergency matters shall be continued to a date after April 15, 2020. Any party or counsel having an urgent or emergency matter before this Court may file a written request for a hearing, and the Court will promptly address those matters on a case by case basis.

In Re: COVID-19 Civil and Domestic Court
Temporary Emergency Order

The Clerk of Courts shall accept any filings in civil or domestic relations matters electronically via fax or email: Fax (740) 392-3533; email: clerkofcourts@co.knox.oh.us. The preferred method of filing documents is electronically via fax or email. Filings by regular mail, delivery or walk-in will be accepted when presented for filing. To contact the Clerk of Courts by telephone, call (740) 393-6788.

The declared public health emergency shall be considered a finding of good cause for continuances of all cases on a case by case basis.

The Court authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all hearings and proceedings. When necessary or otherwise ordered by this Court, all parties and counsel shall appear by telephone, and counsel shall make all appropriate arrangements for counsel, parties and witnesses to appear remotely via teleconference with the Court at the scheduled hearing date and time.

This Temporary Emergency Order shall incorporate a continuum of available flexible responses, to be adopted as necessary and appropriate within Constitutional limits, to respond to the developing needs of the community, and the persons having business before this Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 17th day of March 2020.



RICHARD D. WETZEL, JUDGE

Cc: Knox County Commissioners
Knox County Bar Association
Judge Jay Nixon
Magistrate Christina Reiheld