

IN THE MOUNT VERNON MUNICIPAL COURT, MOUNT VERNON, OHIO

FILED

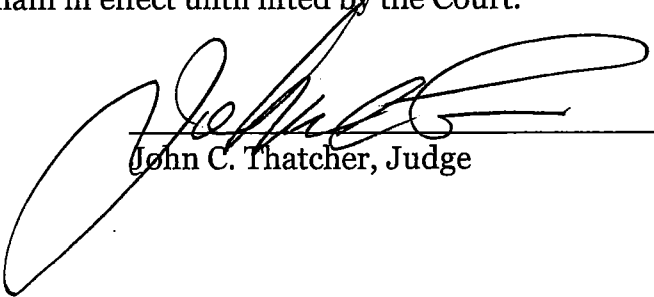
In Re: Public Health and Coronavirus (COVID-19)

2020 MAR 12 PM 3:18
JOURNAL ENTRY

In view of the current public health concerns due to the COVID-19 (19), the Court finds that temporary orders are necessary to mitigate the public health risk while maintaining effective Court operations. Now, therefore, effective **March 13, 2020, at 8 a.m.**, the Court TEMPORARILY ORDERS as follows:

1. In all criminal, traffic and civil cases, only attorneys, the parties, the victims and the media will be permitted to attend hearings and trials in the courtroom on the third floor of 5 North Gay Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio, also known as the Plaza Building.
2. In all cases, witnesses in hearings or trials will be required to wait outside the third floor of the Plaza Building ready to be called as necessary.
3. Continuances will be granted when attorneys, parties or victims are or have been ill.
4. Court staff are authorized to ask individuals entering the third floor whether they are ill or have been ill and, if yes or an individual chooses not to respond, the individual will not be permitted to remain on the third floor; the Court will continue the hearing or trial or make other accommodations if the individual's business is with the Clerk's Office.
5. Attorneys, parties or victims will be permitted to object on the record in the hearing or trial, or in writing, to this temporary order restricting courtroom access.
6. The Court, in consultation with attorneys, parties and victims, will determine whether it is necessary to continue a jury trial, or to modify this temporary order restricting courtroom access.
7. The Adult Probation Department is authorized to implement temporary internal policies necessary to protect the health of Probation staff, other Court employees, probationers and Court users consistent with general public safety.

These TEMPORARY ORDERS will remain in effect until lifted by the Court.


John C. Thatcher, Judge

cc. City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon Police Dept.
Mount Vernon Law Director
Clerk of Court
Adult Probation Dept.
Knox County Sheriff's Office
Knox County Public Defender
Knox County Bar Association
Local Media