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CLERK OF COURTS  
WILLIAMS COUNTY OHIO

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF WILLIAMS COUNTY, OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS  
COVID-19

Misc. No. 20MS 001

**TEMPORARY ORDER**

The Administrative Judge of the Williams County Court of Common Pleas with the advice of the Judge of the Juvenile and Probate Divisions, makes the following Findings of Fact and issues the following Administrative Order.

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 the control the spread of the virus.
3. On March 12, 2020, Ohio Director of Health, Amy Acton, MD, MPH, issued an order prohibiting mass gatherings, which is defined as “any event or convening that brings together one hundred (100) or more persons in a single room or single space at the same time” with certain exceptions.
4. On March 12, 2020, Governor DeWine ordered the closure of all public, private, and community kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade schools for three (3) weeks beginning Monday, March 13, 2020.

5. On March 15, 2020, Dr. Amy Acton ordered effectively closing all restaurants and bars to dine-in service but permitting carry out and delivery services.

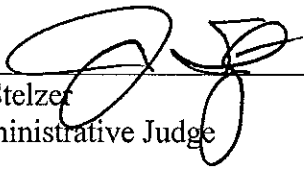
Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Court of Common Pleas, along with all its divisions will develop a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis further escalates or increases in size and scope. The continuum of responses is intended to protect public health, to maintain essential functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Courts.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. It is the intention of each division of the Common Pleas Court of Williams County to remain open and maintain essential court operations and functions, subject to further orders of the Court.
2. The local rules of court for each division of the Williams County Court of Common Pleas may be temporarily adapted with little or no notice to allow flexibility in response to the public health emergency within Constitutional limits.
3. The security policies of each division of the Court may be temporarily amended or supplemented with little or no notice to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.
4. Each division of the Court authorizes 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 involved.

5. The public health emergencies identified herein may be considered to be a finding of good cause for the granting of continuances of jury trials, court trials, and hearings as deemed necessary by each Judge on a case-by-case basis.
6. The Court has 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.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020

  
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JT Stelzer  
Administrative Judge