

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

FILED
KNOX COUNTY
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
2020 MAR 17 PM 2:50
CHRISTY MILLIGAN STATION
CLERK OF COURTS

IN RE:
COVID-19 VIRUS AND ALL MATTERS INVOLVING INMATES OF THE
KNOX COUNTY JAIL ON THE DATE OF HEARING

JOURNAL ENTRY DESIGNATING TEMPORARY COURT LOCATION;
OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 2301.04; TEMPORARY EMERGENCY
COURT OPERATIONS PROTOCOL 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; and to assist our local law enforcement and healthcare community in preserving all available resources; 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 Court Operations Protocol is hereby adopted as a Temporary Emergency Order effective immediately:

It is necessary, by virtue of extraordinary circumstances relating to the declared public health emergency, and considerations for the public health and safety of the community, for the Court to convene for purposes of cases involving inmates at the Knox County Jail on the date of hearing, on a temporary basis limited to the matters coming before this Court beginning on the 17th day of March 2020 and continuing until further Order of this Court, at the following location:

Knox County Jail, 11540 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050. Live video transmission and audio recording shall be made from the Knox County Jail into the Courtroom at the Court of Common Pleas, Knox County, 111 East High Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050. All counsel, witnesses and victims shall report to the Knox County Courthouse, Common Pleas Courtroom.

IT IS SO ORDERED, that the Court of Common Pleas, and all counsel, parties, victims, and personnel necessary for purposes of effecting the terms and conditions of this Order, shall convene and appear in the courtroom, and any jail inmates shall appear via live video and audio transmission from the Knox County Jail, beginning on the 17th day of March, 2020, and thereafter from time to time as scheduled by this Court.

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

The Court authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all hearings and proceedings involving inmates from the Knox County Jail on the date and time of hearing. When necessary and upon motion or otherwise ordered by this Court, witnesses, victims and counsel may appear by telephone, and counsel shall make all appropriate arrangements for teleconference with the Court at the scheduled hearing date and time.

This Order shall continue as a Temporary Emergency Order, for the duration of the declared public health emergency, and until rescinded or modified by this Court. **IT IS SO ORDERED** this 17th day of March 2020.



RICHARD D. WETZEL, JUDGE

A copy of this Order shall be served by regular or electronic mail upon:
Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court
Knox County Prosecuting Attorney
Knox County Sheriff
Knox County Commissioners
Knox County Public Defender
Knox County Bar Association
Local Media
All other counsel of record in affected cases