

Court of Common Pleas, Licking County, Ohio
Domestic Relations Division

CLERK COMMON PLEAS COURT
LICKING CO. OHIO

2020 MAR 16 PM 2:48

GARY R. WALTERS
CLERK

JOURNAL ENTRY
IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19
(CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

The Judges of the Licking County Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations Division, enter the following Findings of Fact and 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 control the spread of the virus.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division will develop a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis escalates or increases in size and scope. 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.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. It is the intention of this division of the Common Pleas Court of Licking County, Ohio to remain open and maintain essential court operations and functions, subject to further Orders of the Court.

Judge
Richard P. Wright

Judge
Duke Frost

Magistrate
C. William Rickrich

Magistrate
Ann E. Snyder

Magistrate
Deborah G. Lang

Magistrate
Tracy F. VanWinkle

2. The Courthouse will be closed to public except for limited access for filing documents with the Clerk of Courts office, Civil Protection Orders and other emergency hearings as determined by the Court.
3. All oral evidentiary hearings and trials for non-Civil Protection Order cases will be continued. The rescheduled hearings will be set by way of a separate order. The Court may conduct hearings pursuant to Local Rule 8.61 on a case by case basis.
4. The Rules of Court of this division of the Licking County Common Pleas Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
5. The security policies of this division of the Licking County Common Pleas Court may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.
6. The Domestic Relations Division Personnel Policy Manual may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential court operations and functions.
7. The Court hereby 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.
8. The public health emergencies identified herein may be considered to be a finding of good cause for the granting of continuances of court trials and hearings as deemed necessary by each Judicial Officer on a case-by-case basis.
9. The Court 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.

10. The Court will maintain common sense procedures in dealings with the members of the bar and the public such as social distancing as appropriate and conducting our business remotely when practical to reduce contact personally when other means such as phone conferences would accomplish the means to help keep all parties healthy.
11. The Court will work with staff to take steps to maintain work areas in a clean and sanitized manner.
12. The Court will work with security to look into means to identify sick individuals who will be entering the courthouse and take appropriate actions to ensure a healthy work environment.
13. This order will be in effect through April 17, 2020, or until further order of the Court.


Richard P. Wright, Judge


Duke Frost, Judge