

APR 06 2020

KEVIN H. TAYLOR
PROBATE/JUVENILE JUDGE
VAN WERT CO, OHIOIN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
OF VAN WERT COUNTY, OHIO
PROBATE AND JUVENILE DIVISION

CASE NO. MISC. _____

TEMPORARY ORDER DECLAINING A JUDICIAL EMERGENCY AND
MODIFYING OFFICE HOURS FOR THE VAN WERT COUNTY COMMON PLEAS
COURT, PROBATE AND JUVENILE DIVISIONS

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The Court hereby makes the following findings of fact:

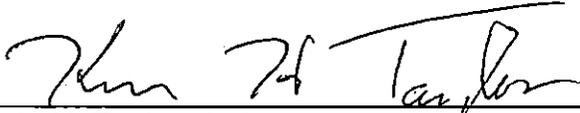
1. There is currently a worldwide outbreak of a potentially dangerous and highly contagious respiratory disease, termed COVID-19 by the World Health Organization.
2. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization characterized the spread of the disease as a global pandemic.
3. Federal, State and local governments have taken unprecedented steps to respond to the coronavirus and to protect the health and safety of Americans. It has been urgently recommended by nearly all qualified medical experts that communities take measures to assist in reducing the spread of COVID-19. IT has been highly recommended that state and local governments implement rather drastic community-based interventions, such as school and daycare closures, even cancellations and extreme social distancing.
4. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine on March 9, 2020, issued Executive Order 2020-01 D, which declared a state of emergency in Ohio. Since that time, Governor DeWine and Dr. Amy Acton, head of the Ohio Department of Health, have taken additional steps to protect Ohioans; including ordering that all Ohio Schools take an extended break of several weeks, prohibiting mass gatherings, and ordering restaurants and bars to cease all operations other than delivery or take-out service.

5. On Sunday, March 22, 2020, Governor DeWine and Dr. Acton issued a state-wide "stay at home" order, to take effect at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2020. Among other things, that order resulted in the closure of all Ohio business deemed "non-essential" and required all persons, other than those engaged in "essential" occupations or other activities, to shelter in place in their homes. Pursuant to the order, the operation of state and local courts is classified as essential.
6. On April 2, 2020, Governor DeWine extended the "stay at home" order until May 1, 2020.

THEREFORE, the Court declares that an emergency exists and **HEREBY ORDERS** that effective April 6, 2020, the hours for the offices of the Probate Court and Juvenile Court shall be from 9:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. The Court will remain open for any hearing that are scheduled before 9:00 a.m. and after 3:00 p.m. on an as-needed basis. The Court will conduct as much business as possible by telephone or other electronic means.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: April 6, 2020


Kevin H. Taylor, Judge
Van Wert Common Pleas, Probate and
Juvenile Divisions