

**IN THE GALLIPOLIS MUNICIPAL COURT, GALLIA COUNTY, OHIO**

IN RE: General Order for Court Operations During the Emergency  
Created by the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Public Health Crisis

**FILED**

MAR 19 2020

GALLIPOLIS  
MUNICIPAL COURT

Now comes the Court and finds that, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of Ohio declared a “state of emergency” in response to the growing COVID-19 public health crisis. The Court further finds that, on March 12, 2020, the Ohio Judicial Conference recommended that individual courts implement contingency and emergency plans tailored to the conditions in individual communities. The Court further finds that a prudent course of action to slow and extend the spread of the virus is to comply with recommendations of state and local public health officials regarding the practice known as “social distancing” and to limit the number of persons accessing the Court facility.

Therefore, with the intent to protect the health of the public, members of the bar, and employees, to maintain essential functions, and to ensure the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court, the Court hereby finds that pursuant to R.C. § 2945.72(H) the Court has authority to sua sponte continue any matter set for trial or preliminary hearing. *State v. Talley, 2008-Ohio-6807*. In those cases where the Court exercises that authority, the time within which an accused must be brought to trial shall be extended during any such continuance and not be charged against the State of Ohio. Each matter continued will be for a reasonable time and each will be rescheduled to a future date reasonably acceptable to both the State and Defendant.

Additionally, 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.

Effective Date: March 19, 2020.

All of the above So Ordered.

  
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**Eric Mulford, Judge**

The Clerk is directed to serve a copy of the foregoing upon the members of the Gallia County Bar Association.