

GALLIPOLIS MUNICIPAL COURT

518 Second Avenue
Gallipolis, Ohio 45631
740-446-9400

Eric R. Mulford, Judge

Lou Ellen Werry, Clerk

March 16, 2020

*****NOTICE*****

The Gallipolis Municipal Court is following the recommendations of the Ohio Supreme Court and the Ohio Judicial Conference in regards to the current public health situation.

The court remains open during normal business hours and is processing our caseload. We are taking reasonable precautions to protect the health of the public, members of the bar, and our employees.

As always, most traffic and civil pre-trials may be handled by telephone conference or by the submission of a written pre-trial report.

As always, payments may be made by mailing a check or money order to the Gallipolis Municipal Court, 518 Second Avenue, Gallipolis, Ohio 45631; online at www.gmcourt.org; or by calling (844) 390-3558.

All criminal, traffic, and civil pre-trial reports and motions, and written not guilty pleas to traffic citations, may be submitted by mail, or by FAX to (740) 441-6028.

If you are scheduled to personally appear in court, please call the clerk's office at (740) 446-9400 to ask if you still need to personally appear in court or if your case may be handled by telephone conference or rescheduled.

If you are scheduled to personally report to probation, please call your probation officer's extension at (740) 446-9400 to ask if you still need to personally appear or if your appointment may be handled by telephone conference or rescheduled.

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IN THE GALLIPOLIS MUNICIPAL COURT, GALLIA COUNTY, OHIO

FILED

**IN RE: Temporary Order in Response to the COVID-19
(Coronavirus) Public Health Crisis**

MAR 13 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 is to develop a continuum of flexible responses in the event that the public health crisis escalates in Gallia County.

Therefore, with the intent to protect the health of the public and employees, to maintain essential functions, and to ensure the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court, the Court hereby ORDERS:

1. All traffic pre-trials may be conducted by telephone followed by the submission of a written pre-trial report to the Clerk of the Court.
2. All criminal initial pre-trials may be conducted by telephone followed by the submission of a written pre-trial report to the Clerk of the Court.
3. All criminal final pre-trials not involving an individual victim may be conducted by telephone followed by the submission of a written pre-trial report to the Clerk of the Court.
4. All civil pre-trials and motion hearings may be conducted by telephone with the Court participating in the telephone conference.

5. All traffic and criminal motion hearings; all criminal final pre-trials involving an individual victim; and all traffic, criminal, civil, and small claims trials will continue to be heard as currently scheduled. In the event that the public health crisis escalates, civil and small claims trials may be continued on the motion of the Court or the parties, or may proceed with the use of audiovisual devices and technologies rather than personal appearance.
6. The Court Bailiffs and the Gallipolis City Police responsible for the security checkpoint at the entrance to the Justice Center are authorized to restrict access to the courtroom and other areas of the facility. Access may be restricted for spectators and any persons who display any symptoms of illness. Access may not be restricted for individual parties to cases, victims, or any subpoenaed witnesses, although appropriate precautions shall be taken to isolate any person displaying any symptoms of illness from direct contact with other individuals.
7. The Court Administrator is authorized to temporarily adjust provisions of the Court Personnel Policy Manual to maintain essential functions.
8. This is a temporary order and will expire on a date certain to be determined by the Court.

Effective Date: March 16, 2020

All of the above So Ordered.



Eric Mulford, Judge

The Clerk is directed to serve a copy of the foregoing upon all members of the Gallia County Bar Association and the Gallipolis Police Department.