

**Lakewood Municipal Court  
Cuyahoga County, Ohio**

**Court Operations, effective August 1, 2020**

**The Lakewood Court will continue normal business hours, 8:00 to 4:30 for any personal appearances. Please check the court's website ([www.lakewoodcourtoh.com](http://www.lakewoodcourtoh.com)) for updates to the court docket.**

Anyone entering the Lakewood City Hall for court business must at all times:

- 1) Wear a face mask or other appropriate face coverings,
- 2) Be subject to temperature screening when entering the building.
- 3) Remain a minimum six (6) feet from other persons, and
- 4) Remain in designated seating area in the courtroom and hallway unless directed by court staff, and

If you have flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), please inform the Court Security Officers at the city hall entrance. You may be denied access into the building and be asked to contact your healthcare provider for details on how to proceed with proper medical care.

For the safety of everyone during this public health situation, the court reserves the right to restrict entry into the building to attorneys, litigants, witnesses, and crime victims.

Due to the expiration as of July 30, 2020 of the tolling provisions of the March 27, 2020 Administrative Order of the Supreme Court of Ohio and H.B.197, all time limits set out in the Ohio Rules of Court and the Ohio Revised Code are in full force and effect. If applicable, additional time to file or respond to a motion or pleading may be permitted upon written request to the court. Any motion or pleading may be filed by regular mail, fax (216-529-7687), email ([lakewoodcourt@Lakewoodoh.net](mailto:lakewoodcourt@Lakewoodoh.net)), or by personal delivery to the court.

**Traffic and criminal cases.**

To provide social distancing, separate traffic arraignment sessions will be held on Mondays for traffic cases and Tuesdays for criminal cases at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00a.m. If the traffic or criminal charge is a minor misdemeanor, the defendant may waive a personal appearance by paying the fines and court costs through the court's waiver violations bureau, either online or by calling the court.

Unless ordered by the court, not guilty pleas may be entered by written notice in lieu of personal appearance in accordance with Criminal Rule 10(B) and Traffic Rule 8(C). The initial traffic and criminal pretrial conferences with attorneys will be

conducted by telephone. Video conferring for pretrial conferences and hearings may be used as applicable and by court order.

### **Trials and hearing.**

Civil and criminal hearings will be scheduled with both times and persons required spaced out to limit the number of persons in court. Cases may be rescheduled upon review of the court or written request of one of the parties setting out the reasons and approval by the court. Court dates may be rescheduled or delayed for the court to reduce the number of people in the court area.

Any written motions to advance or objection to continuing any civil case, including forcible entry and detainer cases, will be reviewed by the court with consideration of the need to limit personal contact and other cases scheduled, balancing the rights of the parties by any delay, and the grounds set out by the party.

### **Eviction Proceedings.**

Although the moratorium on evictions has expired under the Federal Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (C.A.R.E.S.) Act, for any:

- 1) federally subsidized rental unit, or
  - 2) property secured by a federally backed mortgage or first or subordinate lien,
- a landlord must provide a tenant with a written minimum thirty (30) day notice to vacate in addition to the separate three (3) day notice required by Ohio law for evictions based on non-payment of rent.

Any claim for forcible entry and detainer (eviction) based on non-payment of rent the landlord is required to show proof that:

- 1) the rental premises is not federally subsidized or secured by a federally backed mortgage or first or subordinate lien.

Or

- 2) Both the thirty (30) day and the three (3) day notices to vacate were served on the tenants prior to filing the complaint for eviction.

For all eviction cases, the court may convert the hearing to a pretrial conference to resolve the case or extend the hearing date to achieve appropriate social distancing, quarantine issues, or in the interest of justice based on the issues raised by the parties.

### **Weddings.**

To reduce personal contact, the Court will not be performing marriage ceremonies until further notice.