

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, HOCKING COUNTY, OHIO  
GENERAL and DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISIONS

Misc. Docket

JOURNAL ENTRY

IN THE MATTER OF THE COVID-19  
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

HOCKING COUNTY  
COMMON PLEAS COURT  
2020 MAR 20 PM 1:37  
SHARON EDWARDS  
CLERK OF COURT

The Judge of the Hocking County Court of Common Pleas, General and Domestic Relations Divisions makes the following findings:

1. On March 9, 2020, Ohio Governor Dewine issued Executive Order 2020-01D declaring a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 (also known as “the coronavirus”) pandemic.
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.
3. On March 19, 2020, the Hocking County Commissioners declared their desire to take immediate emergency action to promote the health and safety of County employees and the general public. The commissioners also declared that they had a duty to keep the Hocking County Courthouse safe.

Based on these findings, the Hocking County Common Pleas Court, General and Domestic Relations Divisions finds it necessary to amend its Local Rules and

modify its policies to accomplish two overarching goals: (1) protect its employees, litigants, and the community as a whole and (2) administer justice and protect individuals' constitutional and statutory rights. Therefore, it is hereby ordered that:

1. The Hocking County Common Pleas Court, General and Domestic Relations Divisions' Local Rules may be temporarily modified to allow this Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to this public health emergency.
2. The Hocking County Common Pleas Court, General and Domestic Relations Divisions' policies may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential court operations.
3. Hocking County Common Pleas Court, General and Domestic Relations Divisions authorize the use of videoconferencing equipment and alternative technologies for all actions and proceedings when appropriate.
4. Hocking County Common Pleas Court, General and Domestic Relations Divisions has determined the COVID-19 public health emergency is a good cause for continuances.
5. This Court has determined that it will continue certain civil and criminal matters, scheduled between March 20, 2020 and April 10, 2020, for hearing, or disposition to a future date on a case by case basis.

6. During the period from March 20, 2020 to April 10, 2020, the Court will not conduct jury trials. Any member of the public summoned for jury service is not required to report. The Court will do individual orders in each case explaining this action.
7. This Court will not conduct grand jury proceedings during the period from March 20, 2020 to April 10, 2020. All members of the public summoned will not be required to appear for Grand Jury Service. The Court will do individual orders in each case explaining this action.
8. The Court will continue to receive and conduct hearings on petitions for Domestic Violence Protection Orders (CPO), and will conduct the full hearings on Civil Protection Orders.
9. This Court will also continue to receive and conduct hearings on petitions for Civil Stalking Protection Orders and Civil Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Orders under R.C. 2903.214, and will conduct full hearings on the above matters.
10. Through April 10, 2020, all trials, full hearings, dissolution hearings, uncontested divorce hearings, and other evidentiary hearings (except Civil Protection Order hearings, Civil Stalking and Civil Sexually Oriented Offense hearings), scheduled to take place in this Court or with Magistrate Sheard may be continued by the Court for a later date. All hearings stated above will be

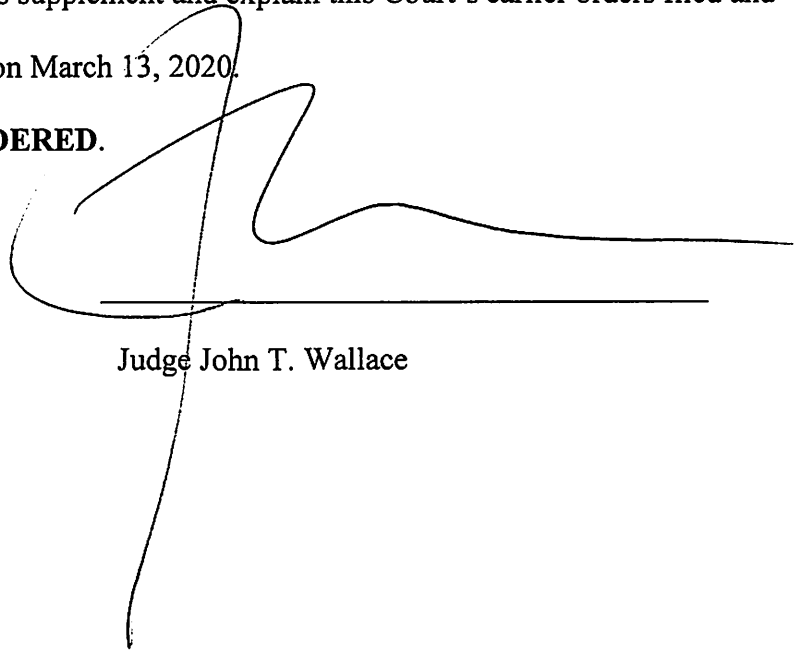
held in the large courtroom to allow maximum space between attorneys, court staff and parties.

11. Any dissolution actions that are dismissed in accordance with R.C. §3105.64(A) for being pending longer than ninety days, may be refiled by the parties with additional Court costs waived.
12. Through April 10, 2020, all pretrial hearings, settlement conferences, status conferences and guardian ad litem conferences will be conducted by phone if possible. No in-person Court appearance is necessary. If the Judge or Magistrate determines that the pretrial issues cannot adequately be addressed by telephone, then the Judge or Magistrate will continue the conference for a later date, or reschedule it on a case by case basis.
13. The Hocking County Common Pleas Court, General and Domestic Relations Divisions hereby permits the filing of court documents to be done via mail, e-mail, or fax. No in-person filing option – except for new petitions for civil protection orders, civil stalking protection orders and civil sexually oriented offense protection orders – will be available to the public through April 10, 2020. Payment for filing fees will still be required in order for documents to be filed. New petitions for CPOs, Stalking Orders and Civil Sexually Oriented Offense Orders are to be handed to the deputy at the door and placed in the Court's box in the lobby. The deputy is then to call the Court so it may be picked up and filed.

14. The Hocking County Common Pleas Court, General and Domestic Relations Divisions, will have the lawful authority, within constitutional limits, to do or direct to be done all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice and public safety for the duration of the declared state of emergency.

15. These orders supplement and explain this Court's earlier orders filed and distributed on March 13, 2020.

It is so **ORDERED**.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and appears to be 'John T. Wallace'. The line extends to the right of the signature.

Judge John T. Wallace