

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 17, 2020

As a result of the World Health Organization's declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic, and Governor of Ohio Mike DeWine's executive order declaring a state of emergency employing preventive and proactive measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to treat those affected, the Courts of Clark County are acting as follows.

All Clark County Courts are open and are continuing to conduct the business of the Courts on a daily basis, as is the function of such Courts under the Ohio Constitution and statutory law. With the health and safety of the public and all those who work in and with the Courts in mind, the Courts are implementing scheduling measures that should reduce the number of persons coming to the Courts each day.

We ask that only persons who have official business with the Courts appear at the Courts during this time of emergency. This means that parties (plaintiffs and defendants), litigants, subpoenaed witnesses, summoned jurors, and attorneys may appear at the Courts for official business, but that all others should not. Persons who do not have official Court business to conduct should not come to the Courts, and they may have their access to the Courts' offices restricted during this time.

We further ask that persons who do come to the Courts for official business engage in responsible social distancing practices while at the Courts. This generally includes, but is not limited to, avoiding physical contact with others, maintaining a distance of 6 feet from others where possible, and covering sneezes and coughs.

Finally, if someone scheduled to appear in Court is ill, they should seek to reschedule their appearance by contacting their attorney, if represented, or by contacting the Courts as follows:

Clark County Common Pleas Court/General Division	937-521-1739
Clark County Common Pleas Court/Juvenile & Domestic	937-521-1600 (Ext. 2)
Clark County Probate Court	937-521-1845
Clark County Municipal Court	937-328-3780
Also:	
Clark County Prosecuting Attorney	937-521-1770
City of Springfield Prosecutor	937-328-3741
Clark County Public Defender	937-521-1727

Respectfully,

Thomas Capper, Presiding/Administrative Judge of the Clark County Comm. Pleas Court  
Katrine Lancaster, Judge of the Clark County Juvenile Court  
Richard P. Carey, Judge of the Clark County Probate Court  
Thomas E. Trempe, Presiding/Administrative Judge of the Clark County Municipal Court