

NORWALK MUNICIPAL COURT

45 N. Linwood Avenue, Norwalk, Ohio 44857 PH: (419) 663-6771 FAX: (419) 663-6749

ERIC R. WEISENBURGER, JUDGE

March 17, 2020

For Immediate Release:

RE: Norwalk Municipal Court Operations During COVID-19 Pandemic

Governor DeWine has ordered closed all bars and restaurants other than carry-out service due to the Coronavirus threat in an effort to prevent “community spread” of the virus. Currently, the ban does not include public buildings, office environments, or places where it is unusual for a large number of people to be within arm’s length of each other. However, the volume of people that the Norwalk Municipal Court serves on a daily basis warrants additional action on behalf of the Court.

The Norwalk Municipal Court will remain open and functioning with the following applying:

- Eviction hearings will not take place for at least the next two weeks.
- Small claims cases will not be heard for at least the next two weeks.
- Jurors scheduled to report for jury service in March are requested to stay home until or unless you are notified that your services are needed for a particular trial.
- Cases will be continued when appropriate.

Municipal Court hearings will remain open. But friends and family members are requested to stay home rather than risk their health by coming to court.

Effective March 23rd, Municipal Court arraignments for defendants who are in custody will be conducted as previously scheduled.

These plans will be in effect until April 7th. We will continue to monitor the ongoing COVID-19 situation and adapt to meet our community’s needs.

For emergency matters that need immediate attention, please contact the Court at (419) 663-6750.

We are continuously assessing the situation to determine if additional precautions are necessary.

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NORWALK MUNICIPAL COURT

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**IN THE NORWALK MUNICIPAL COURT
NORWALK, OHIO**

MARCH 17, 2020

**TEMPORARY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19
(CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

The Judge of the Norwalk Municipal Court makes the following Findings of Fact:

1. On March 9, 2020 Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D “Declaring a State of Emergency” in response to the growing COVID-19 public health crisis.
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 11, 2020 the first “community transfer” positive case of COVID-19 in the State of Ohio was confirmed.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Norwalk Municipal Court has developed a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis escalates. The continuum of responses is intended to protect public health, to maintain essential court functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Norwalk Municipal Court Local Rules of Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. Security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.
3. The Court authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings.
4. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary on a case-by-case basis.

5. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. R. Weisenburger', written over a horizontal line.

ERIC R. WEISENBURGER, Judge

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ERIC R. WEISENBURGER, JUDGE

**** Update ****

March 18, 2020

For Immediate Release:

RE: Norwalk Municipal Court Operations During COVID-19 Pandemic

In response to the current COVID-19 public health emergency, Norwalk Municipal Court is making the following scheduling changes:

- **Initial appearance hearings for all defendants, except for those with OVI charges and those being held at the Huron County Jail, set for Monday, March 23, 2020 are continued to Monday, April 6, 2020 at the originally scheduled time. Defendants charged with OVI and those in jail will be heard as originally scheduled.**
- **Initial appearance hearings for all defendants, except for those with OVI charges and those being held at the Huron County Jail, set for Monday, March 30, 2020 are continued to Monday, April 13, 2020 at the originally scheduled time. Defendants charged with OVI and those in jail will be heard as originally scheduled.**
- **Certain other hearings may be continued on a case-by-case basis.**

Members of the public are encouraged to conduct business with the Norwalk Municipal Court by telephone whenever possible. The Court staff may be reached at (419) 663-6750.

Please scroll down for further information.