

IN THE CONNEAUT MUNICIPAL COURT
ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO

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

The Court hereby 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 14, 2020, the President of the United States declared a “national emergency” as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis.
4. Governor DeWine issued an executive order the closing of all schools in Ohio effective Monday, March 16, 2020, and ordering that all nursing and assisted living facilities are closed to visitors, that all gatherings of 100 or more persons are prohibited, and that all restaurants and bars shall be closed expect for take-out or delivery, among other things.
5. All sporting events throughout the United States have been cancelled.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Conneaut 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 Local Rules of Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. The Court security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.
3. The City of Conneaut Employment Manual, upon which the Court has relied with respect to Court employees, may be temporarily adjusted by the Court to maintain essential court operations and functions.
4. To the extent possible based on available resources, the Court authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings.
5. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary on a case-by-case basis.
6. 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.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Nicholas A. Iarocci

Nicholas A. Iarocci, Judge