

IN THE MOUNT VERNON MUNICIPAL COURT, MOUNT VERNON, OHIO

FILED

In Re: Public Health and Coronavirus (COVID-19)

2020 MAR 12 PM 3:19
JOURNAL ENTRY

In view of the current public health concerns due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Court finds that temporary orders are necessary to mitigate the public health risk while maintaining effective Court operations. Now, therefore, effective **March 13, 2020, at 8 a.m.**, the Court TEMPORARILY ORDERS as follows:

MT VERNON MUNICIPAL COURT
MARY JO HAWKINS, CLERK

1. In all criminal, traffic and civil cases, only attorneys, the parties, the victims and the media will be permitted to attend hearings and trials in the courtroom on the third floor of 5 North Gay Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio, also known as the Plaza Building.
2. In all cases, witnesses in hearings or trials will be required to wait outside the third floor of the Plaza Building ready to be called as necessary.
3. Continuances will be granted when attorneys, parties or victims are or have been ill.
4. Court staff are authorized to ask individuals entering the third floor whether they are ill or have been ill and, if yes or an individual chooses not to respond, the individual will not be permitted to remain on the third floor; the Court will continue the hearing or trial or make other accommodations if the individual's business is with the Clerk's Office.
5. Attorneys, parties or victims will be permitted to object on the record in the hearing or trial, or in writing, to this temporary order restricting courtroom access.
6. The Court, in consultation with attorneys, parties and victims, will determine whether it is necessary to continue a jury trial, or to modify this temporary order restricting courtroom access.
7. The Adult Probation Department is authorized to implement temporary internal policies necessary to protect the health of Probation staff, other Court employees, probationers and Court users consistent with general public safety.

These TEMPORARY ORDERS will remain in effect until lifted by the Court.



John C. Thatcher, Judge

cc. City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon Police Dept.
Mount Vernon Law Director
Clerk of Court
Adult Probation Dept.
Knox County Sheriff's Office
Knox County Public Defender
Knox County Bar Association
Local Media

**Mount Vernon Municipal Court
Department of Adult Probation**

Five North Gay Street, Third Floor
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050-3241

Probation (740) 393-9555 Fax: (740) 393-9574 Clerk's Office: (740) 393-9510 Fax: (740) 393-5349



Mary J Hawkins, Clerk of Court

David E Priest, Chief Probation Officer

John C. Thatcher, Judge

In an attempt to reduce exposure to the Coronavirus and other related illnesses, the Department of Adult Probation and Court Security have been authorized to deny access to visitors who report being ill or being recently ill. You will not be permitted to enter beyond the Security checkpoint.

The Court will grant a continuance for those who have a scheduled hearing and provide notice to all parties of the new hearing date. If you are here for a drug screen or a scheduled appointment with Probation Department, your name and contact information will be collected and you will be contacted to reschedule. Limited access will be granted to individuals who do not have a scheduled appointment with the Department.

Below is information on how you can help stop the spread of illness. If you feel you have been exposed or have recently experienced flu symptoms, you are strongly encouraged to immediately contact your health care provider or the Knox County Health Department.

COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

Monday-Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm. Evening hours every third Tuesday until 6pm.
Phone: 740-392-2200. For public health emergencies during non-business hours, call
740-397-3333, Opt. #1
11660 Upper Gilchrist Road
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050