

In the Morgan County Court  
McConnelsville, Ohio

FILED  
MORGAN COUNTY COURT  
2020 MAR 19 AM 10:01

The Morgan County 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 13, 2020, President Trump issued a "Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak," stating that "additional measures" are "needed to successfully contain and combat the virus in the United States."
4. On March 15, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine ordered closed all bars and restaurants other than carry-out services. On March 16, 2020, Governor DeWine ordered closed gyms, fitness centers, recreation centers, bowling alleys, indoor water parks, movie theaters, and other business. 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.
5. On March 18, 2020 the Morgan County Commissioner's ordered "Effective at the close of business March 18, 2020 ALL COUNTY BUILDINGS WILL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC."

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Morgan County 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 as much as possible under the circumstances, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

**THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

1. The Morgan County Court will remain open and functioning during the state of emergency due to COVID-19, subject to the following.

For any case continued pursuant to this Administrative Order, the Clerk is directed to issue notice of the continued date to the most recent address on file.

For any matter continued pursuant to this order, and to which R.C. 2945.71 applies, the period of the continuance will toll the running of the time for speedy trial time as the period of any reasonable continuance granted other than upon the accused's own motion R. C. 2945.72(H).

### Traffic Arraignment

2. For traffic case in which a ticket has already been filed, arraignment shall be continued to a specific date at least eight weeks from the date of this Order.
3. For traffic tickets filed within eight weeks from the date of this Order, the Clerk is hereby directed to schedule those cases for arraignment at least eight weeks from the date the ticket is filed.

### Criminal Arraignment

4. For Criminal cases in which the defendant is not being held in jail, arraignment shall be continued to a specific date at least eight weeks from the date of this Order.
5. For criminal complaints filed within eight weeks from the date of this Order, and for which the defendant is to appear in response to a summons, the Clerk is hereby directed to schedule those cases for arraignment at least eight weeks from the date the complaint is filed.

Effective immediately, the Clerk of Courts is authorized to grant a recognizance bond and provide a hearing date to any person who is charged with a non-violent misdemeanor or traffic case, and who had a warrant issued for failure to appear in court, either by personal surrender of the defendant or by presentation in the company of a sworn officer who has effectuated an arrest of the person pursuant to the warrant previously issued by the Court.

6. Arraignments for defendants who are in custody will be conducted. However, friends and family members of those prisoners will not be permitted in the court room.

### CIVIL AND SMALL CLAIMS

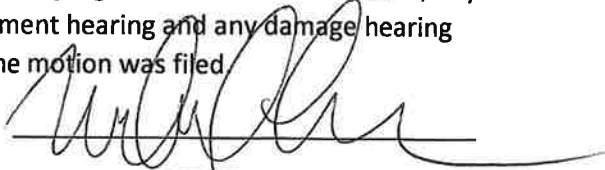
7. Pending Civil cases and Small Claims shall be continued to a specific date at least eight weeks from the date of this Order.
8. For any new Civil cases and Small Claims received from the date of this Order will be scheduled for hearing at least eight weeks from the date of filing.

### Miscellaneous Hearings

9. All judgment debtor examinations hearings, rent escrow hearings, garnishment hearings and damages hearings shall be continued to a specific date at least eight weeks from the date of this Order.
10. For eight weeks from the date of this Order, any motion for judgment debtor examinations, any motion pertaining to a rent escrow matter, any garnishment hearing and any damage hearing shall be scheduled at least eight weeks from the date the motion was filed.

DATE

2/19/20

  
MICHAEL D. LOWE, JUDGE