

Dear Fellow Bar Members:

We wanted to reach out and let you all know that we have been working diligently on COVID-19 planning as it relates to you and our courts. Over the past week, significant developments have occurred, such as Governor DeWine declaring a state of emergency and the first identified case of community spread COVID-19, occurring in another Ohio county. As your elected judges, we are taking steps to help you and the general public during these challenging times. We ask you as our colleagues and fellow bar members to help us with these efforts.

In everyone's best interest, our courts will be practicing social distancing, meaning staying six feet apart from one another. Please understand that this is very important to do although we realize it can come across as awkward. It is a basic and reasonable step to keep all of us healthy.

We also ask that you seriously consider conducting business with our courts by phone as much as practical for pre-trials and status conferences. You will receive more information on this in the coming days on matters like initiating the phone call and possible shifting of in-court hearings to phone conferences. **Until then, it is business as usual for your attendance at hearings and trials.**

We encourage you to e-file your documents as much as possible. If you have not created an e-file account, it is very straight-forward. Clerk of Courts, Natalie Fravel, and the Probate and Juvenile Clerks offices, would be happy to assist you. If you have a courthouse mailbox, you may contact the Clerk's offices and have the loose documents in your mailbox scanned to you to minimize public exposure.

This matter is changing and evolving as we send you this email. We will stay in touch and keep you apprised of changes we may need to make. We ask for your flexibility and assistance during this time of adjustment. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Judge Gormley
Judge Fuller
Judge Hejmanowski
Judge Schuck
Clerk of Courts Natalie Fravel