

MASON MUNICIPAL COURT
WARREN COUNTY, OHIO

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MUNICIPAL COURT
MASON, OHIO

IN RE: TEMPORARY ORDERS OF
PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE FOR
MASON MUNICIPAL COURT

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JUDGE D. ANDREW BATSCHE
DATE: 3/18/2020

This matter having come before the Court, the Court makes the following findings and ORDERS:

The Court finds that the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio has indicated that individual courts should formulate plans to continue to perform the essential functions of the court while taking measures to protect against the spread of Covid-19.

The court finds it necessary to issue the Temporary Orders set forth herein. These Orders may be amended as information and knowledge continues to develop concerning Covid-19.

Based upon the findings of the court, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020, as follows:

1. During the traffic and criminal dockets, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, only defendants, victims, law-enforcement officers and attorneys will be permitted to enter the court building and courtroom.
2. All minor misdemeanor cases will be eligible for payout or written plea of not guilty status. The Court is waiving the mandatory appearance requirement minor misdemeanor cases.
3. The security staff and Bailiffs will determine the number of defendants permitted in the courtroom at any one time.
4. During the Wednesday civil and small claims court docket, only parties, their attorneys and witnesses will be permitted to enter the court building and the courtroom.
5. All individuals entering the court building, may be asked to leave and/or may be subject to healthcare screening by non-invasive means.

6. The following individuals shall not be permitted to enter the building with the courtroom:
 - (a) Any individual with symptoms including, but not limited to, fever, respiratory symptoms and/or a sore throat,
 - (b) any individual who has traveled out of the country within the last 60 days or an individual who has a household member who has traveled outside the country in the last 60 days.
7. Any party who is not permitted to enter the courtroom will have their case continued.
8. All individuals shall maintain appropriate social distancing of approximately 6 feet, whenever possible.
9. Due to the public health emergency, the court will entertain motions to continue any matter for at least 30 days.
10. The court will review matters on a case-by-case basis and may continue initial appearances, arrangements, pre-trials, motion hearings, dispositions, sentencing or trials for a minimum of 30 days.
11. Pretrial conferences in criminal and civil matters shall be conducted by phone whenever possible. Upon request of any party, a pre-trial may be continued in progress for a minimum of 30 days permit for an in-person pre-trial conference.
12. Any person represented by a public defender/court appointed attorney shall consult with said Attorney by telephone whenever possible. Any person represented by a public defender/court appointed attorney shall be notified of any continued hearing.
13. The chief probation officer shall adopt rules and implement measures in accordance with the courts temporary orders to limit, whenever possible, face-to-face contact with individuals who have been placed on probation pursuant to community control sanction.
14. The court may continue jury trials, as needed. The court notes that as of the date of this order, there is only one jury trial scheduled within the next 30 days.
15. The courts local rules are hereby temporarily amended to permit the court to adopt guidelines for a response to the public health emergency.
16. The court may amend its security policies from time to time in order to protect public health while continuing to maintain central court functions, as directed by the Supreme Court of Ohio.

17. The court specifically finds the public health emergency to be a finding of good cause for continuance and is deemed necessary by the court as determined on a case by case basis.
18. Judicial personnel, clerk of courts personnel, attorneys, law-enforcement officers, witnesses, and parties who exhibit signs of illness shall notify the court, by telephone or email.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Andrew Batsche', written over a horizontal line.

D. ANDREW BATSCHE, JUDGE
MASON MUNICIPAL COURT