

**PRESS RELEASE:**  
***TEMPORARY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS***

The Judges of the General, Domestic Relations, and Probate/Juvenile Division of the Allen County Court of Common Pleas have authorized measures to provide necessary services through the COVID-19 public health crisis. Temporary emergency procedures were adopted March 16, 2020, by these Courts. These procedures authorize actions to maintain essential court functions and operations during the crisis. These procedures will allow the Courts to maintain necessary staffing levels. These procedures will minimize and avoid large crowds in the courthouses by restricting non-essential access to the facilities. The Judges will increasingly rely on technologies to remotely conduct business in both civil and criminal cases. Specific actions include:

- Enhanced sanitation protocols are being followed in the courthouses.
- Courthouse access is being restricted to essential parties and personnel.
- Jury trials are suspended for 30 days. Jurors who are summoned for trials April 20, 2020, or after must still call-in at 419-223-8525. The jury policy will be reviewed by April 17, 2020.
- All hearings involving incarcerated defendants may be conducted by video or continued on a case-by-case basis.
- All civil pre-trial hearings will be conducted by conference call.
- Plans are being developed for limiting the number of court employees and/or rotating work schedules.
- Judges will continue to discuss matters with one another to re-evaluate needs and policies.

The temporary emergency orders reflect the importance of all courts in the daily civil life of our nation, and these procedures recognize that the essential functions of courts are heightened in a public health crisis. The Common Pleas Courts are responsible for handling and supervising felony cases, hundreds of local civil disputes, matters involving families, ensuring children are adequately cared for, and a variety of other actions that concern many of the most vulnerable in our community. The emergency procedures help to ensure that the Common Pleas Court of Allen County, Ohio, can provide necessary essential services while minimizing exposure of litigants and court personnel and complying with the directives of state and federal officials

The emergency orders are temporary. These adjustments are all within the constitutional authority of the Court and are intended to protect the rights of all court users. Courts balance the tightrope walk between individual freedoms and public interest. During a time of public crisis, that tightrope is raised high above the ground. The commitment of the Courts to maintain a healthy and neutral balance in a time of heightened anxiety, fears, and even panic is the goal of your Common Pleas Court Judges. That commitment is reflected in the temporary emergency procedures being utilized by these Courts.

The General Division procedures are enclosed with this release and will be posted on the Clerk of Court's website as soon as possible: [clerkofcourts.allencountyohio.com](http://clerkofcourts.allencountyohio.com). Questions for the General Division may be directed to the 419-223-8525

FILED  
COMMON PLEAS COURT

2020 MAR 16 PM 12:09

MARGIE MURPHY MILLER  
CLERK OF COURTS  
ALLEN COUNTY, OHIO

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ALLEN COUNTY, OHIO**

**CASE NO. MISC. \_\_\_\_\_**

**TEMPORARY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO  
CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

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The Court hereby makes the following findings of fact:

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. 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.

Based on these findings of fact, and with the purpose to maintain essential court functions and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court, it is hereby ORDERED:

1. The General Division Local Rules of Court may be temporarily adapted to allow the Court to be flexible, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. The General Division security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.

3. The General Division authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings,

4. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary by the assigned judge on a case-by-case basis.

5. 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.

March 16, 2020

  
Jeffrey L. Reed, Administrative Judge

  
Terri L. Kohlieser, Presiding Judge

FILED  
COMMON PLEAS COURT

2020 MAR 16 PM 12:09

MARGIE MURPHY MILLER  
CLERK OF COURTS  
ALLEN COUNTY, OHIO

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ALLEN COUNTY, OHIO

CASE NO. MISC. \_\_\_\_\_

TEMPORARY ORDER SUSPENDING  
ALLEN COUNTY SPECIALTY DOCKET *HEARINGS*  
[DRUG COURT, MENTAL HEALTH COURT, RE-ENTRY COURT]

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The Court hereby makes the following findings of fact:

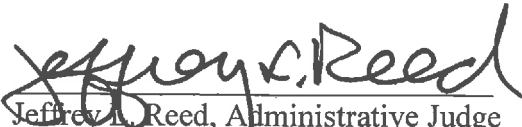
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Based on these findings of fact, and with the purpose to maintain essential court functions and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court, it is hereby ORDERED:

All *in-person hearings* are temporarily suspended until further order of the Court during the pendency of the current COVID-19 health crisis.

Random urinalysis, supervision reporting and treatment requirements are not suspended by this order.

March 16, 2020

  
Jeffrey L. Reed, Administrative Judge

  
Terri L. Kohlrieser, Presiding Judge