

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF DEFIANCE COUNTY, OHIO
GENERAL DIVISION
PROBATE/JUVENILE DIVISIONS

20-MS-005

IN THE MATTER OF:

**TEMPORARY ORDER DECLARING A
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO
THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC
HEALTH CRISIS**

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JUDGMENT ENTRY

AMY M. GALLAGHER
CLERK
2020 MAR 17 11:35

FILED
IN COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
DEFIANCE COUNTY, OHIO

The Court of Common Pleas of Defiance County, Ohio, General Division and Probate/Juvenile Division Judges make 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.

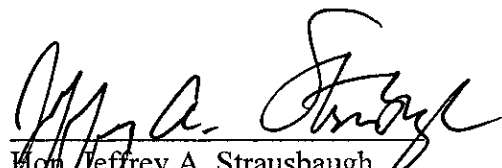
Based upon these Findings of Fact, the divisions and each of the Judges of the Defiance County Common Pleas Court have developed a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis escalates. The continuum of responses is intended to protect public health, to maintain essential court functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Local Rules for Defiance County Common Pleas Court, General Division and Probate/Juvenile Divisions may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. The Defiance County Court Security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.
3. The Defiance County Employee Handbook provisions may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential court operations and functions.
4. The Defiance County Common Pleas Court authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings.
5. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary by assigned Judges on a case-by-case basis.
6. 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.



Hon. Joseph N. Schmenk
Defiance County Common Pleas Court
General Division



Hon. Jeffrey A. Strausbaugh
Defiance Co. Common Pleas Court
Probate/Juvenile Divisions