

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
SCIOTO COUNTY  
FILED

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, SCIOTO COUNTY, OHIO**  
**JUVENILE DIVISION**

2020 MAR 19 PM 3:13

**IN RE:        TEMPORARY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19**  
**(CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

ALAN LEMONS  
JUDGE  
PROBATE-JUVENILE DIV.

The Juvenile Division Judge of the Scioto County Court of Common Pleas makes the following Findings of Fact:

1.        On March 9, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued an Executive Order 2020-01 (D) 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.        To date, the first "community spread" positive case of COVID-19 has not been confirmed in Scioto County. However, testing began on March 17, 2020 with results expected in approximately 72 hours to eight (8) days.
4.        On March 11, 2020, the first "community transfer" positive case of COVID-19 in the State of Ohio was confirmed.
5.        On March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump officially declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency.
6.        The Centers for Disease Control and other state and local authorities have issued guidelines and have advised people to take precautions to reduce the potential of exposure to the COVID-19 virus.
7.        Social distancing is the CDC recommended technique for people to keep physical distance between themselves and other people to prevent further spread of the disease.

8. The CDC recommends employers minimize exposure between employees and the public.

9. The County's Employee Handbook and Human Resources provisions, as they relate to court employees, may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential court operations and functions.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Juvenile Division of the Court of Common Pleas 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, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

**THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

1. The Juvenile Division Local Rules of Court are temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.

2. The Juvenile Division security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.

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

4. The public health emergency shall be considered to be a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary by the 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.

6. Any person who has been diagnosed with, has come into contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with, or is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 shall not be permitted to enter the Juvenile Court.

7. Any person who has recently traveled from an area with a widespread COVID-19 outbreak or has been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency shall not be permitted to enter the Juvenile Court.

8. The Juvenile Court will have the lawful authority to require any person who is within the Juvenile Court, but would otherwise be barred from entering the Juvenile Court by the restrictions stated above, to exit the premises.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**



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**JUDGE ALAN LEMONS**

Cc: The Supreme Court of Ohio  
The Fourth District Court of Appeals  
The Ohio State Bar Association  
Scioto County Bar Association  
Scioto County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division  
Scioto County Court of Common Pleas, General Division  
Scioto County Clerk of Courts  
Scioto County Prosecutor  
Scioto County Commissioners  
Scioto County Health Department  
The Portsmouth Daily Times  
The Scioto Voice