

**IN THE DEFIANCE MUNICIPAL COURT  
DEFIANCE COUNTY, OHIO**

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

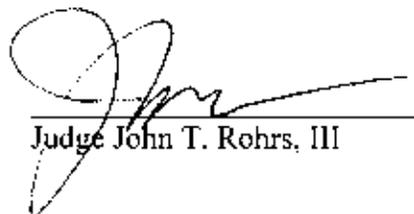
The Judge of the Defiance Municipal Court makes the following Findings of Fact:

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.
3. On March 11, 2020 the first "community transfer" positive case of COVID-19 was confirmed in the State of Ohio.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Court 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 Local Rules of Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. The Court security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.
3. The Court Employee Handbook provisions may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential court operations and functions.
4. The 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 the Judge 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.

  
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Judge John T. Rohrs, III

CLERK OF COURT  
DEFIANCE COUNTY, OHIO  
2020 MAR 11 10:00 AM