

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT  
JACKSON COUNTY, OHIO

FILED  
Common Pleas Court  
Jackson, OH

APR - 6 2020

SETH I. MICHAEL, CLERK  
DEPUTY

**GENERAL ORDER:  
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT  
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19  
FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 6, 2020 TO MAY 15, 2020**

Case No. 20ms0005

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This Court issues this General Order in response to the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in Ohio and nationwide. The following declarations have occurred.

1. The Governor of the State of Ohio, Michael Dewine, has declared a State of Emergency;
2. Jackson County has declared a State of Emergency;
3. The restrictions set forth in the Governor's State of Emergency have been extended to May 1, 2020;
4. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention continues to issue guidance on how to best decrease the spread of COVID-19;
5. The Ohio Supreme Court's extension of deadlines under the Rules of Civil and Criminal Procedure.

Given the above cited declarations and recommendations and the severity of the risk posed to public health, it is hereby ORDERED that effective April 6, 2020:

1. All civil, criminal, and domestic relations trials and hearings before this Court are continued until May 15, 2020. This includes any associated deadlines previously set.
2. All Grand Jury proceedings are continued pending further Order of this Court.
3. With regard to criminal matters, this Court finds that based upon:
  - a. The reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors;
  - b. The risk to public health;

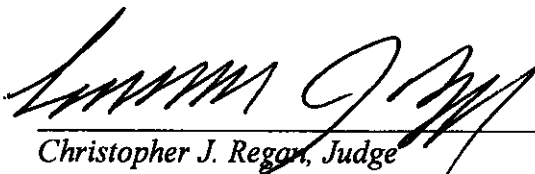
- c. The availability of counsel and court staff;
- d. The above-cited declarations and recommendations;

- i. Therefore, this Court finds that pursuant to R.C. 2945.72(H) that the Court has the authority to sua sponte continue any criminal case set for trial within the next 30 days. State v Talley, 2008-Ohio-6807

- 4. The Court will continue to hear cases involving civil protection orders, civil stalking protection orders, and cases involving the risk of death or serious bodily harm.
- 5. Case by case exceptions to the continuances provided by this Order may be ordered by the Court after consultation with counsel.
- 6. This Order does not affect the Court's consideration of civil, criminal, or domestic relations matters that can be resolved upon motion without oral argument or an evidentiary hearing.

The Jackson County Court of Common Pleas shall remain open. The public may continue to utilize the Court's services while following all applicable public health guidelines.

This Order will be reviewed not later than May 15, 2020, at which point the Court will amend, vacate, or continue this Order.



Christopher J. Regan, Judge

Distribution: Local Bar Association via email  
Jackson County Commissioners  
Jackson County Sheriff  
The Telegram  
WKOV – PSA Announcement  
Jackson County Health Dept.  
Ohio Judicial Conference

CJR/kar