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COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
BROWN COUNTY, OHIO
CLERK: J. CLARK GRAY
DEPUTY: *Rhonda Jones*



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IN THE COURT OF BROWN COUNTY, OHIO

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, GENERAL AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISIONS : JUDGE SCOTT T. GUSWEILER
:
TEMPORARY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) : ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

The Judge of the Brown County Court of Common Pleas makes the following findings of fact:

1. The CDC and the Brown County Health Department report a dramatic increase in positive COVID-19 cases in Brown County, Ohio.
2. The CDC has determined that Brown County is at a high risk of community transmission.

Based upon these findings, the severity of risk posed to the public, the General Division of the Court of Common Pleas has developed a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis continues to escalate. 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 the court may be temporarily adapted to allow court flexibility, within constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. The Court shall attempt to minimize the amount of travel and in person interaction of litigants, attorneys, witnesses, jurors, law enforcement

personnel, and court staff by conducting proceedings, when practical, by remote video or telephone conferences.

3. This order does not affect the Court's consideration of matters that can be resolved upon motion without oral argument.
4. The security policies and procedures for the Court may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions. Access may be temporarily refused by security staff to any visibly ill person and anyone that does not have business with the Court.
5. Courtroom attendance shall be limited to attorneys, parties, and necessary witnesses. Court security will allow entrance to witnesses at the direction of the Court.
6. Facial coverings will be required in public areas and when social distancing is not possible, including the courtrooms. The Presiding Judge or Magistrate may revise these orders should the facts merit same.
7. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of "just cause" for continuances deemed necessary by assigned judges on a case-by-case basis.
8. The Court will continue to hear cases involving protection orders.
9. The Court hereby authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings, which would be feasible for use based upon the nature of the action or proceeding.
10. 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.

11. The Court will maintain common sense procedures in dealing with the members of the bar and the public to reduce personal contact such as phone conferences, social distancing, and conducting business remotely when practical.
12. Although facsimile filing is encouraged, attorneys/staff designees and the general public may still file pleadings in person at the Clerk of Courts office. Attorneys and/or staff designee may continue to check attorney boxes located in the Clerk of Courts office.

This order shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



**JUDGE SCOTT T. GUSWEILER
BROWN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
GENERAL AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION**

TO THE CLERK:

Serve the order to the following individuals via regular ordinary mail:

Supreme Court of Ohio
Ohio Judicial Conference
65 South Front Street, 4th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-3431

Brown County Prosecutor's Office
Zac Corbin, Prosecutor
(via email by the Court Administrator)

Brown County Sheriff's Office
Chief Deputy Chris Hodges
(via BCSO box)

Brown County Health Department
Kyle Arr, Health Commissioner
(via email by the Court Administrator)

Brown County Board of Commissioners
Daryll Gray, President
(via email by the Court Administrator)

Brown County Press
Wade Linville, Editor
(via email by the Court Administrator)

Brown County Bar Association President
(via email by the Court Administrator)