

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO
PROBATE AND JUVENILE DIVISIONS**

IN RE:

CASE NOS. 77777777 (Probate)
20205001 (Juvenile)

TEMPORARY ORDERS NECESSITATED
BY THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND
STATES OF EMERGENCY IN THE UNITED
STATES AND STATE OF OHIO

FILED

FILED

MAR 20 2020

MAR 20 2020

**PROBATE COURT
PAULDING COUNTY, OH**

**JUVENILE COURT
PAULDING COUNTY, OH**

TEMPORARY ORDER

This 20th day of March, 2020, the Judge of the Paulding County Court of Common Pleas, Probate and Juvenile Divisions, 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 crises.
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 12, 2020, the State of Ohio Director of Public Health issued a ban on “mass gatherings,” and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine ordered the closure of schools in the State of Ohio to control the spread of the virus.
4. On March 13, 2020, President of the United States Donald Trump declared a National Emergency pursuant to the Stafford Act as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.
5. On March 15, 2020, the State of Ohio Director of Health issued orders limiting access to Ohio’s jails to control the spread of the virus.

6. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more cases of COVID-19 are likely to be identified in the United States in the coming days, including more instances of community-spread infections.
7. Various federal, state, and local health agencies continue to urge limitations on public interactions in an effort to control the spread of the virus from person to person.
8. Temporary modification of the current rules, practices, and procedures of the Paulding County Court of Common Pleas, Probate and Juvenile Divisions, is necessary in order to ensure the orderly and efficient functioning of the Court, to ensure that all essential functions of the Court are carried out, and to ensure the health and safety of the staff, parties, attorneys, and general public.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Paulding County Court of Common Pleas, Probate and Juvenile Divisions, has developed and will continue to develop a continuum of flexible responses in response to this public health emergency. The continuum of responses is intended to protect 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, ADJUDGED, and DECREED that:

1. All Local Rules of this Court may be temporarily adapted, modified, or suspended to allow Court flexibility, within constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. The security policies and procedures of the Court may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health safety while maintaining essential Court functions.
3. The Employee Handbook provisions may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential Court operations and functions.

4. The Court authorizes, on a case-by-case basis unless otherwise approved, the use of audio and audiovisual devices and technologies for Court actions and proceedings.
5. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of good cause for any purposes, including continuances deemed necessary, 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 and such time after the declaration is ended deemed necessary by this Court.
7. The Court may make such modifications and authorizations in any manner deemed reasonable by the Court and need not follow formal processes for modification of Rules of Court and Rules of Procedure, and shall provide notification of any modifications and authorizations in such manner as may be deemed reasonable by this Court, including but not limited to posting notice to the Court's or Paulding County's websites and by providing notice to parties or members of the bar by mail or email.
8. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until such time as it is modified or rescinded by the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 20, 2020



Michael A. Wehrkamp, Judge