

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
GENERAL DIVISION
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

20MS _____

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

The General Division Judges of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas make 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 emergency.
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 in the state of Ohio was confirmed.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the General Division of the Court of Common Pleas developed protocol in response to this public health emergency. These protocols are is intended to protect public health, maintain essential court functions, and continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The General Division Local Rules of Court may be temporarily modified to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.

2. The General Division policies may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential court operations and functions.
3. The General Division authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings.
4. The General Division has determined the public health emergency is a good cause for continuances.
5. The Judges have agreed to continue certain civil and criminal matters, scheduled between March 16, 2020, and April 13, 2020, for a jury trial, hearing, or disposition to a future date.
6. Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, through April 13, 2020, citizens summoned for petit jury duty are not required to report for jury service.
7. Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, through April 13, 2020, hours of operation for the General Division will be 8:00am – 3:00pm.
8. The General Division will have the lawful authority, within constitutional limits, to do or direct to be done all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice and public safety for the duration of the declared state of emergency.
9. Sheriff's sales currently scheduled are hereby canceled, and the Franklin County Sheriff is ordered to return those orders of sale without execution. All other orders of sale that have been issued or are subsequently filed are hereby stayed for a period of 60 days or until further order of the court. All current and future writs for possession are hereby stayed for a period of 60 days or until further order of the court.
10. All civil Duty Magistrate hearings (garnishment, replevin, forcible entry and detainer, civil forfeiture hearings and judgment-debtor examinations, etc.) scheduled from March 23 –

April 10 will be continued. *Ex parte* civil protection order hearings are excluded and will be held.

11. All time frames set forth above may be further extended for a greater period of time subject to further order of the court if deemed necessary.

HON. STEPHEN L. McINTOSH
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE



3/20/2020