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**IN THE CHARDON MUNICIPAL COURT**  
**GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO**

Chardon  
Municipal Court  
Chardon, Ohio

IN THE MATTER OF COURT OPERATIONS	]	JUDGE TERRI L. STUPICA
	]	ADMINISTRATIVE / PRESIDING JUDGE
	]	
CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO CoVID-19	]	TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY	]	

On March 9, 2020, Ohio Governor Michael DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D, declaring a State of Emergency in Ohio in response to the CoVID19 public health emergency.

On March 15, 2020, the CDC issued guidance that events of more than 50 people be postponed for a period of eight weeks and was modified by the White House Administration on March 16, 2020 to reduce that number to ten people.

In response to this public health emergency, the following measures are being taken to minimize the number of persons that need to be in the Courthouse, in addition to the original Order of this Court on March 13, 2020. Therefore, it is hereby ordered:

1. There are no jury trials through April 30, 2020.
2. The Court will continue to conduct arraignments and initial appearances by video for those Defendants in the Geauga County Safety Center. The Public Defender is permitted in the jail for this purpose. Other attorneys may continue their clients' matters, or choose to speak to their clients in jail, then be present in the Courtroom while the Defendant is seen by video.
3. **Traffic and Criminal Arraignments:** The Court is granting continuances for those who file same; the Court is also permitting some tickets that are not normally a waivable offense to be paid via the waivable process.
4. **Traffic and Criminal Pretrials and Trials:** The Court is still conducting pretrials; however, the Court is granting continuances, granting motions in absentia, and granting pretrial phone conferences with the prosecutors; trials to the Court are being continued through April 30, 2020 at this time. On the Court's own motion, continuances are hereby granted pursuant to R.C.2945.72(H) if a speedy trial issue exists, based upon a necessity to protect public health.
5. **Probation:** Appointments are being conducted by telephone with each Defendant's respective probation officer until further order of Court.
6. **Civil Pretrials:** Effective immediately, all civil pretrials will be held in abeyance for up to 60 days until further order of the Court, with the exception of pretrials converted to telephonic pretrials.

7. **Civil Trials:** Effective immediately, all civil trials, including small claim hearings, will be held in abeyance for up to 60 days or until further order of the Court.
8. **Eviction Hearings:** First Cause Eviction hearings are being held and considered on a case by case basis to ensure that no threats of violence exist, there is not a dangerous situation, and/or that criminal activity is not involved; otherwise may be continued upon motion filing.

The aforementioned changes in temporary procedure will considerably reduce the number of individuals appearing in Court. Parties can also take steps to eliminate or postpone their next court appearance.

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

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE:

3-25-2020



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JUDGE TERRI L. STUPICA  
ADMINISTRATIVE / PRESIDING JUDGE 2020

**JOURNALIZED**

March 25, 2020

CHARDON MUNICIPAL COURT