

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN RE: MODIFICATION OF COURT : No. A.D. 45-2020  
OPERATIONS DURING COVID-19 :  
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY : Supreme Court Docket No. 44 MM 2020

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

AND NOW, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2020, upon consideration of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's May 27, 2020 Order specifically empowering President Judges to continue to exercise emergency powers under Rule 1952(B)(2) of the Rules of Judicial Administration, and consistent with this Court's Orders of March 17, 2020, April 1, 2020, April 24, 2020, May 26, 2020, June 19, 2020, and August 13, 2020, and in conjunction with Warden Cheryl L. Steberger's continuing efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within the Lancaster County Prison, this Court hereby amends its previous Emergency Operations Administrative Orders, and now ORDERS that the following actions be taken pursuant to Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952(B)(2):

**Bench Warrants**

1. Any individual arrested before 3:00 PM Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) on bench warrants issued by any Court of Common Pleas will be transported to the Lancaster County Courthouse between the hours of 8:30 AM and 3:00 PM and held by the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office pending a bench warrant hearing. Bench warrant hearings for those individuals will be held via video at the Court of Common Pleas, as needed, each business day at 3:00 PM. Bench warrant hearings for

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individuals who are being detained at the Lancaster County Prison will continue to be held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1:30 PM, in accordance with the previously established Court procedure.

2. A moratorium is placed on the execution of all Domestic Relations warrants and Fines and Costs warrants until November 1, 2020.

### **Continuances**

3. No proceeding shall be scheduled for an individual within 14 days from his or her release from the Lancaster County Prison. Thereafter, the proceeding shall be scheduled as soon as practicable.

4. The 14-day period of delay shall be considered a Court delay and shall constitute excludable time for purposes of the application of Pa.R.Crim.P. No. 600.

### **Deferred Prison Sentences**

5. All sentence report dates currently in effect are extended by a period of 60 days, at which time the defendant shall report to the Lancaster County Prison for execution of sentence subject to any further order of this Court.

### **Other Modified Court Operations**

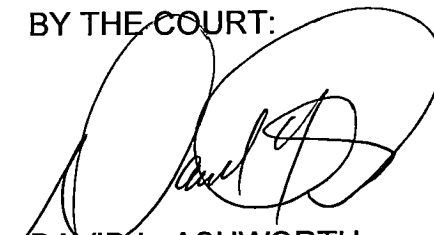
6. These and other modified Court operations shall be set forth in the protocols on the Court's website at <https://court.co.lancaster.pa.us/>.

**Duration of Administrative Order**

7. This Administrative Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further order of this Court.

8. This Administrative Order supports the health, safety, and welfare of the Lancaster County Prison staff and inmates, the public, courthouse employees, court employees, and participants in court proceedings.

BY THE COURT:



DAVID L. ASHWORTH  
PRESIDENT JUDGE

Attest: *Donna Flora, deputy*

- Copies to:
- Lancaster County Board of Judges
  - Lancaster County Magisterial District Judges
  - Lancaster County District Court Administrator
  - Lancaster County Clerk of Courts
  - Lancaster County Prothonotary
  - Lancaster County Register of Wills
  - Lancaster County Clerk of the Orphans' Court
  - Lancaster County Sheriff
  - Lancaster County District Attorney
  - Lancaster County Public Defender
  - Lancaster County Adult Probation & Parole Services
  - Lancaster County Juvenile Probation
  - Lancaster County Children and Youth Social Service Agency
  - Lancaster County Prison
  - Lancaster County Board of Commissioners
  - Lancaster County Solicitor

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