

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

IN RE: EXTENSION OF : No. A.D. 36-2020  
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY :  
THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2020 : Supreme Court Docket No. 44 MM 2020

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

AND NOW, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020, upon consideration of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's May 27, 2020, Order ceasing the statewide judicial emergency effective June 1, 2020, while specifically empowering President Judges of the state judicial districts to continue local declarations of emergency, to specifically limit in-person access to the courts, to suspend certain rules, and to suspend jury trials consistent with "prevailing health and safety norms" and to "protect court personnel, court users, and members of the public," and consistent with this Court's Orders of March 17, 2020, April 1, 2020, April 24, 2020, and May 26, 2020, it is hereby declared that the Judicial Emergency declared in the Second Judicial District due to the COVID-19 pandemic is extended through **August 31, 2020**, or until further order of this Court, and, while the Courts will be open to conduct all judicial services, the Court facilities will remain closed to the general public through August 31, 2020, as set forth in the protocols on the Court's Website.

It is further ORDERED that:

1. In consideration of the health and safety of the employees of Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas, the Courthouse, the related Court facilities, Court users and the public, and in consideration that the COVID-19 virus poses a continuing

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health risk, and in consideration of the recommendations of the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) for use of precautions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, all coronavirus related safety precautions, protocols and requirements previously described in this Court's prior Administrative Orders will continue to remain valid and applicable to Lancaster County Court operations.

2. Pending further order of the Court, criminal jury trials scheduled for August 2020 are continued to September 2020; thereafter, trials will be held, provided they can be conducted safely and consistent with prevailing health and safety norms. Criminal nonjury trials may be scheduled with the permission of the President Judge.

3. Statewide rules pertaining to the rule-based right of criminal defendants to a prompt trial continue to be suspended. Postponements occasioning delays during the local judicial emergency, and for thirty days after the judicial emergency ends (to permit rescheduling amidst anticipated heavy caseloads), shall be excluded from Pennsylvania Rule of Criminal Procedure 600. Said delays shall be considered court delays and shall constitute excludable time for purposes of the application of Rule 600, subject to constitutional limitations. See Pa.R.Crim.P. 600(C)(1); Pa.R.Crim.P. 600 cmt. See *also* **Commonwealth v. Mills**, 640 Pa. 118, 122, 162 A.3d 323, 325 (2017); **Commonwealth v. Bradford**, 616 Pa. 122, 141, 46 A.3d 693, 705 (2012).

4. Civil jury trials scheduled through December 2020 are continued generally, until rescheduled by the presiding judge after consultation with the President Judge. Civil nonjury trials may be scheduled with permission of the President Judge.

5. From the date of this Order through August 31, 2020, the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas and Lancaster County Magisterial District Courts are open to conduct all court business subject to protocols and procedures that limit, as much as possible, all in-person access and proceedings. Advanced communication technology shall be used for all proceedings in both the Court of Common Pleas and the Magisterial District Courts within constitutional limitations and/or unless the presiding judge determines otherwise. Statewide rules that restrict, directly or indirectly, the use of such are hereby suspended. If a party objects to a proceeding by other electronic means, a motion shall be filed in advance as to the reason why alternative electronic means shall not be used.

6. When deemed appropriate and necessary, proceedings requiring in-person appearances may be scheduled at the discretion of the assigned judge, and shall be conducted in a manner that employs appropriate social distancing and all other safety measures consistent with CDC and DOH guidelines associated with countering the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Any in-person proceedings shall be limited to those persons deemed essential by the presiding judge. If a party objects to a hearing requiring personal appearance, a motion shall be filed in advance as to the reason for the objection to personal appearance. Any in-person proceeding that cannot be conducted safely in the discretion of the presiding judge shall be postponed to a future date when safety measures can be so employed.

7. Court filings shall be made by means other than in-person delivery whenever possible. Statewide rules impeding court filings by means other than in-person delivery are hereby suspended.

8. Detailed protocols for the handling of matters in each division of the Court of Common Pleas will be provided on the Court's Website.

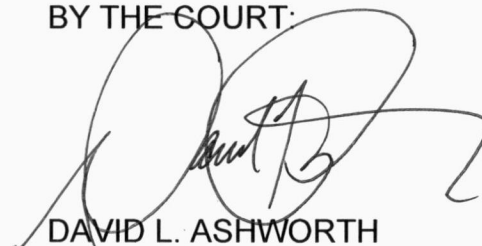
9. Court users and the public are requested and encouraged to conduct any business they have in the Courthouse by telephone, mail, email, or any other advanced communication technology whenever possible in order to avoid in-person contact with Courthouse personnel.

10. Individuals permitted access to any Court facility will be required to maintain appropriate social distancing of at least six feet, to wear protective face masks or appropriate face coverings in common areas, and to comply with all safety directives provided by the Court or County staff.

11. The purpose of this Administrative Order is to continue the gradual re-opening of the Lancaster County Court system in a safe, efficient manner while adhering to CDC and DOH guidelines in order to protect all Court personnel, Court users and the public. The Court's prior Administrative Orders, not inconsistent with this Order, shall remain in full force and effect through the duration of the Judicial Emergency.

12. This Administrative Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect through August 31, 2020, or until further order of this Court.

BY THE COURT:



DAVID L. ASHWORTH  
PRESIDENT JUDGE

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 Prison  
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners  
Lancaster County Solicitor