

The Greene Reports

Official Legal Publication for Greene County, Pennsylvania
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Greene County Courthouse, Waynesburg, PA 15370

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March 26, 2020



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Serving the Legal Community of Greene County
Since October 1982

The Greene Reports

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COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
Honorable Farley Toothman, President Judge
Honorable Louis Dayich, Judge

MOTIONS

Criminal & Civil & O.C.:
Emergencies Only

CRIMINAL

Arraignments: March 30, 2020
ARDs: April 13, 2020
ARD Revocations: April 13, 2020
Parole Violations: March 30, 2020
Plea Court: April 14 and April 15, 2020
License Suspension Appeals: April 20, 2020
Argument Court: -

ORPHANS

Accounts Nisi: April 6, 2020
Accounts Absolute: April 17, 2020

SUPREME COURT
SUPERIOR COURT
COMMONWEALTH COURT

Convenes in Pgh.: April 20-24, 2020
Convenes in Pgh.: May 4-5, 2020
Convenes in Pgh.: May 11-15, 2020

ARGUMENTS

Argument Court: April 7, 2020

CIVIL

Domestic Relations Contempts: April 27, 2020
Domestic Relations Appeals: April 27, 2020

JUVENILE

Plea Day: April 16, 2020

THE GREENE REPORTS

Owned and published by the GREENE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Editor: Kayla M. Sammons
E-mail address: editor.greenerreports@yahoo.com

EDITORIAL POLICY

All articles published in The Greene Reports are intended to inform, educate or amuse. Any article deemed by the editorial staff to be reasonably interpreted as offensive, demeaning or insulting to any individual or group will not be published.

The views expressed in the articles represent the views of the author and are not necessarily the views of The Greene Reports or the Greene County Bar Association.

The Greene Reports welcomes letters to the Editor both for publication and otherwise. All letters should be addressed to: Editor, The Greene Reports, Greene County Courthouse, 10 East High Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370. Letters must include signature, address and telephone number. Anonymous correspondence will not be published. All letters for publication are subject to editing and, upon submission, become the property of The Greene Reports.

THE GREENE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Jessica L. Phillips, President
Christopher M. Simms, Vice-President
Cheryl Cowen, Secretary
Timothy M. Ross, Treasurer
Christine N. Nash, Ex-Officio

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DEED TRANSFERS

The following property transfers have been recorded in the Greene County Recorder of Deeds office.

CLARKSVILLE BOROUGH

Easy Meets West Postal LLC to Elmac Properties LLC, Lot 17, \$245,000.00 (3-25-20)

CUMBERLAND TOWNSHIP

Bank of America N A to George Lewis, Lot 245 in Crucible, \$20,000.00 (3-25-20)

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

Leslie Shultz, et al., to Hovanis Family Trust, et al., Lots, 8-9 in Rohanna Iron & Metal Inc., \$314,000.00 (3-20-20)

Catherine J. Todd to Helen M. Wilson, 2 Tracts, \$131,900.00 (3-23-20)

JACKSON TOWNSHIP

Principal Energy Resources LLC to AMP IV LP, 4.579 Acres, O&G, \$34,628.39 (3-26-20)
Principal Energy Resources LLC to aMP IV LP, 1.107 Acres, O&G, \$8,371.61 (3-26-20)

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

Janet L. Wood to Michelle L. Kapp, Tract, \$85,000.00 (3-26-20)

SPRINGHILL TOWNSHIP

Richard Lemley, et ux., to Greenbrier Royakty Fund II LLC, et al., 91.775 Acres, O&G, \$367,100.00 (3-25-20)

ESTATE NOTICES

NOTICE is hereby given of the grant of letters by the Register of Wills to the Estates of the following named decedents. All persons having claims are requested to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent are requested to make payment to the personal representative or his attorney without delay.

FIRST PUBLICATION

FOX, JUSTIN FRANCIS

Late of Carmichaels, Greene County, Pennsylvania
Co-Administrators: Mark A. Fox, 793 Dutch Run Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370 and
Christine A. Durbin, 134 Hamilton Street, Jefferson, PA 15344
Attorney: Kirk A. King, Esquire, 77 South Washington Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370

SECOND PUBLICATION

MORGAN, MARGARET W.

Late of Franklin Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania
Co-Executrices: Mary Beth Pastorius, 940 Beaver Street, Sewickley, PA 15143 and
Joyce Ann Winters, 190 Dunn Station Road, Prosperity, PA 15329
Attorney: David F. Pollock, Esquire, Pollock Morris Belletti & Simms, LLC, 54 South Washington Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370

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WILLIAMS, KENNETH RAY a/k/a KENNETH R. WILLIAMS
Late of Dunkard Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania
Co-Executors: Kenny R. Williams and James R. Williams, c/o Davis & Davis Law
Offices, Gary J. Frankhouser, Esquire, 107 East Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401
Attorney: Gary J. Frankhouser, Esquire, Davis & Davis Law Offices, 107 East Main
Street, Uniontown, PA 15401

THIRD PUBLICATION

HALOW, JOHN STEPHEN a/k/a JOHN S. HALOW
Late of Greene Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania
Executor: Maria S. Halow, 248 Garards Fort Road, Garards Fort, PA 15334
Attorney: Todd A. Fuller, Esquire, Brenlove & Fuller, LLC, 401 Washington
Avenue, Bridgeville, PA 15017

FIRST AND FINAL ACCOUNT

LIST OF FIRST AND FINAL ACCOUNTS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE COURT
BY SHERRY L. WISE, CLERK OF COMMON PLEAS COURT, ORPHANS' COURT
DIVISION ON April 6, 2020 FOR NISI CONFIRMATION AND ON April 17, 2020 FOR
FINAL CONFIRMATION.

The First & Final Account of Cheryl Hart, Executrix of the Estate of Charles W. Hart,
Deceased, late of Cumberland Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania.

Attorney: Kimberly J. Simon-Pratt, Esquire
223 East High Street
Waynesburg, PA 15370
724-627-9118

FICTITIOUS NAME NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the Fictitious Name Act of Pennsylvania
(54 Pa.C.S. Section 301 et. Seq.), that an application for registration of a Fictitious Name was
Filed with the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on February 21,
2020, for the conduct of a business under the fictitious name of Dyers Fork Farm, with its
principal office or place of business at 1857 Mt. Morris Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370. The
names and addresses of all persons who are parties to the registration are: Doris Meighen, 1857
Mt. Morris Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370.

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SHERIFF'S SALE

By Virtue of a Writ of Execution (Mortgage Foreclosure)
No. AD-925-2016 ED-23-2017

Issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Greene County, Pennsylvania and to me directed, I will expose
the following described property at public sale at the Greene County Courthouse in the City of Waynesburg,
County of Greene, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on:

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020
AT 10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

All parties in interest and claimants are further notified that a proposed schedule of distribution will be on
file in the Sheriff's Office no later than twenty (20) days after the date of the sale of any property sold
hereunder, and distribution of the proceeds will be made in accordance with the schedule ten (10) days after
said filing, unless exceptions are filed with the Sheriff's Office prior thereto.

First Guaranty Mortgage Corporation

v.

Christopher C. Shoffner and the United States of America

1969 Mount Morris Road, Township of Whiteley, Waynesburg, PA 15370, Tax Parcel No. 29-02-144B.
Improvements thereon consisting of a Residential Dwelling, sold to satisfy judgment in the amount of
\$297,087.65. Sold as the property of Christopher C. Shoffner by value of a Deed recorded in Deed Book 72
at Page 1394.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1969 Mount Morris Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370
UPI/ TAX PARCEL NUMBER: 29-02-144B

**Seized and taken into execution to be sold as the property of CHRISTOPHER C. SHOFFNER in suit
of FIRST GUARANTY MORTGAGE CORPORATION.**

Attorney for the Plaintiff:
Stern & Eisenberg PC
Warrington, PA 215-572-8111

MARCUS SIMMS, Sheriff
Greene County, Pennsylvania

SHERIFF'S SALE

By Virtue of a Writ of Execution (Mortgage Foreclosure)
No. AD-809-2019 ED-3-2020

Issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Greene County, Pennsylvania and to me directed, I will expose
the following described property at public sale at the Greene County Courthouse in the City of Waynesburg,
County of Greene, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on:

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020
AT 10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

All parties in interest and claimants are further notified that a proposed schedule of distribution will be on
file in the Sheriff's Office no later than twenty (20) days after the date of the sale of any property sold
hereunder, and distribution of the proceeds will be made in accordance with the schedule ten (10) days after
said filing, unless exceptions are filed with the Sheriff's Office prior thereto.

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PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
VS.
JOHN A. LASKO and KELLY A. LASKO

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot of land situate in Cumberland Township, County of Greene and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

IMPROVEMENTS consist of a residential dwelling. BEING PREMISES: 102 Cross Street, Carmichaels, PA 15320
TAX PARCEL #05-16-608
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 102 Cross Street, Carmichaels, PA 15320
UPI/ TAX PARCEL NUMBER: 05-16-608

Seized and taken into execution to be sold as the property of JOHN A. AND KELLY A. LASKO, JOHN LASKO in suit of PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC.

Attorney for the Plaintiff:
KML Law Group, P.C.
Philadelphia, PA 215-627-1322

MARCUS SIMMS, Sheriff
Greene County, Pennsylvania

SHERIFF'S SALE

By Virtue of a Writ of Execution (Mortgage Foreclosure)
No. AD-770-2019 ED-6-2020

Issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Greene County, Pennsylvania and to me directed, I will expose the following described property at public sale at the Greene County Courthouse in the City of Waynesburg, County of Greene, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on:

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020
AT 10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

All parties in interest and claimants are further notified that a proposed schedule of distribution will be on file in the Sheriff's Office no later than twenty (20) days after the date of the sale of any property sold hereunder, and distribution of the proceeds will be made in accordance with the schedule ten (10) days after said filing, unless exceptions are filed with the Sheriff's Office prior thereto.

PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
VS

JULIE GJORMAND, Solely in Her Capacity as Heir of Ruth Spangenberg, Deceased, HAROLD HANEY Solely in His Capacity as Heir of Ruth Spangenberg, Deceased, KIMBERLY MICHNIAK Solely in Her Capacity as Heir of Ruth Spangenberg, Deceased, The Unknown Heirs of Ruth Spangenberg, Deceased, CHARLES SPANGENBERG Solely in His Capacity as Heir of Ruth Spangenberg, Deceased.

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot of land situate in Borough of Carmichaels, County of Greene and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

IMPROVEMENTS consist of a residential dwelling.

BEING PREMISES: 206 East George Street, Carmichaels, PA 15320

TAX PARCEL #02-01-212 / 02000289

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 206 East George Street, Carmichaels, PA 15320

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UPI/ TAX PARCEL NUMBER: 02-01-210 / 02000289

Seized and taken into execution to be sold as the property of JULIE GJORMAND, SOLELY IN HER CAPACITY AS HEIR OF RUTH SPANGENBERG, DECEASED, HAROLD HANEY SOLELY IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEIR OF RUTH SPANGENBERG, DECEASED, KIMBERLY MICHNIAK SOLELY IN HER CAPACITY AS HEIR OF RUTH SPANGENBERG, DECEASED, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF RUTH SPANGENBERG, DECEASED, CHARLES SPANGENBERG SOLELY IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEIR OF RUTH SPANGENBERG, DECEASED, in suit of PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Attorney for the Plaintiff:
KML LAW GROUP, P.C.
Philadelphia, PA 215-627-1322

MARCUS SIMMS, Sheriff
Greene County, Pennsylvania

SHERIFF'S SALE

By Virtue of a Writ of Execution (Mortgage Foreclosure)
No. AD-13-2019 ED-5-2020

Issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Greene County, Pennsylvania and to me directed, I will expose the following described property at public sale at the Greene County Courthouse in the City of Waynesburg, County of Greene, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on:

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020
AT 10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

All parties in interest and claimants are further notified that a proposed schedule of distribution will be on file in the Sheriff's Office no later than twenty (20) days after the date of the sale of any property sold hereunder, and distribution of the proceeds will be made in accordance with the schedule ten (10) days after said filing, unless exceptions are filed with the Sheriff's Office prior thereto.

PNC Bank, National Association

Vs.
Daniel G. Welsh as Administrator to the Estate of Barbara Jean Loar, AKA Barbara J. Loar

ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, GREENE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: ALSO KNOWN AS RR 2 BOX 134E, AKA 910 DUNN STATION ROAD, PROSPERITY, PA 15329. PARCEL NO. 24-02-102a.

BEING THE SAME PREMISES WHICH VIRGINIA P. SCOTT, NOW VIRGINIA P. BAKER, AND LOUIS J. BAKER, HER HUSBAND, BY DEED DATED JANUARY 25, 1984 AND RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF DEEDS OF GREENE COUNTY ON JANUARY 25, 1985 IN DEED BOOK 2, PAGE 174, GRANTED AND CONVEYED UNTO GERALD F. LOAR AND BARBARA JEAN LOAR, HIS WIFE. BARBARA JEAN LOAR HAS DEPARTED THIS WORLD.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: RR 2 Box 134E, AKA 910 Dunn Station Rd, Prosperity, PA 15329
UPI/ TAX PARCEL NUMBER: 24-02-102A

Seized and taken into execution to be sold as the property of DANIEL G. WELSH, AS ADMINISTRATOR TO THE ESTATE OF BARBARA JEAN LOAR, AKA BARBARA J. LOAR in suit of PNC BANK.

Attorney for the Plaintiff:
Manley Deas Kochalski, LLC
Columbus, OH 614-220-5611

MARCUS SIMMS, Sheriff
Greene County, Pennsylvania

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA
WESTERN DISTRICT

IN RE: GENERAL STATEWIDE : NOS. 531 and 532 Judicial
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY : Administration Docket

ORDER

PER CURIAM

AND NOW, this 18th day of March, 2020, this Court DIRECTS that all Pennsylvania courts are generally CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC, beginning at close of business March 19, 2020, and lasting through at least April 3, 2020, subject to the General and Specific Directives and Exceptions listed below.

The Court further explains and DIRECTS as follows:

I. Background

On March 16, 2020, this Court issued an Order, pursuant to Pennsylvania Rule of Judicial Administration 1952(A), declaring a statewide judicial emergency until April 14, 2020, to safeguard the health and safety of court personnel, court users, and members of the public due to the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 virus (the "Judicial Districts Order"). A separate Order was issued on the same day for the Superior and Commonwealth courts (the "Intermediate Courts Order").

The Judicial Districts Order authorized Pennsylvania Judiciary to consider, on a district-by-district basis, appropriate measures to be taken to safeguard the health and safety of court personnel, court users and the public generally. Accordingly, the Order granted the President Judges of each judicial district authorization to declare a local judicial emergency in their district to attain special authority and provided procedures for doing so. In the Intermediate Courts Order, the President Judges of the Superior and Commonwealth Courts were accorded discrete emergency powers.

Significant and material events have transpired since the prior Orders were filed. The federal government has issued guidance suggesting an immediate need for extraordinary nationwide measures, for example, that gatherings of more than ten individuals are to be avoided. This afternoon, the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health urged this Court to consider statewide closure of the courts, except for essential services, for a period of approximately 14 days in order to further restrict the amount of person-to-person contact and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. And this Court is cognizant of the nature of court proceedings, during which individuals who may be carrying the virus with or without symptoms – including court staff, attorneys, litigants, other court participants and members of the public – may come into close proximity with other persons.

Accordingly, pursuant to Rule of Judicial Administration 1952(A) and this Court's constitutionally-conferred general supervisory and administrative authority over all courts and magisterial district judges, see PA. CONST. art. V, §10(a), this Court now DECLARES that a judicial emergency exists in all judicial districts, effective at close of business on March 19, 2020, pending further order of this Court, and that the courts of Pennsylvania – including the individual Courts of Common Pleas and the Superior and Commonwealth Courts – are

generally CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC through at least April 3, 2020, subject to the General and Specific Directives and Exceptions listed below.

Furthermore, local judicial districts in Pennsylvania are RELIEVED of the obligation to file an emergency declaration to obtain authorization to exercise the emergency powers contemplated by Rule of Judicial Administration 1952(B)(2), as a judicial emergency is hereby deemed to exist in every judicial district in Pennsylvania through April 14, 2020, consistent with the Judicial Districts Order.

Additionally, inasmuch as the President Judges of many judicial districts have declared local judicial emergencies pursuant to the authorization contained in the Judicial Districts Order and have issued administrative directives accordingly, we specify that nothing in this Order is intended to vitiate or modify any such directives.

II. General Directives and Exceptions

The President Judges of all judicial districts are DIRECTED to comply with procedures listed in the Judicial Districts Order, except that, in light of the present Order, they need not – and should not – transmit additional declarations of emergency to the State Court Administrator as would otherwise be required under Paragraph 1 of the Judicial Districts Order. With that said, if a President Judge of a judicial district issues any order in connection with the local judicial emergency that now is deemed to exist in that judicial district, the President Judge shall transmit such order to the Court Administrator of Pennsylvania. Furthermore, if such President Judge did not previously declare a local judicial emergency as authorized by the Judicial Districts Order, the President Judge's emergency powers exist through April 14, 2020, as reflected in that Order. If, however, such President Judge has declared a local emergency and such declaration has been assigned a Supreme Court docket number, any further order concerning administrative directives or other matters associated with the local judicial emergency should be captioned so as to indicate that docket number.

Subject to the General and Specific Directives and Exceptions below, court facilities in all judicial districts and in the Superior and Commonwealth courts SHALL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC as to non-essential functions through at least April 3, 2020.

Unless otherwise indicated herein, all time calculations for purposes of time computation relevant to court cases or other judicial business, as well as time deadlines, are SUSPENDED through April 3, 2020, subject to additional orders of this Court. This suspension SHALL OVERLAP with suspensions already granted by any President Judge, and any longer suspensions directed by a local or appellate court shall remain extant on their own terms. In all events, any legal papers or pleadings which are required to be filed between March 19, 2020 and April 3, 2020, SHALL BE DEEMED to have been timely filed if they are filed by April 6, 2020, or on a later date as permitted by the appellate or local court in question upon consideration of the potential volume of such filings.

Use of advanced communication technology to conduct court proceedings is, again, SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED AND ENCOURAGED IN ALL DISTRICTS, subject only to constitutional limitations.

All President Judges of the courts of common pleas are HEREBY INSTRUCTED to adopt procedures in implementing this Order that restrict potential COVID-19 exposure which could result from judges, court staff, and county agency staff interaction with the public, with full consideration of the necessary adjudication of constitutionally essential functions. In this regard, the judgment of President Judges concerning these General and Specific Directives and Exceptions SHALL SUPERSEDE any requirements of this Order, so long as the President Judge's approach remains consistent with requirements of the United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions. Along these lines, we observe that the particularized emergency circumstances

with which each President Judge is confronted should ultimately inform the constitutional analysis.

Whenever possible, consistent with constitutional concerns, all courts are to consider deciding matters on the papers.

III. Specific Directives and Exceptions

The Directives below allow for in-person court proceedings in some emergency matters as specified for each category of courts. This Court DIRECTS that, to the extent possible, any interaction between court personnel and anyone else involved in the proceeding be undertaken consistent with federal guidance – including that provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – such as social distancing, the disinfection of surfaces, and the wearing of a facemask by an infected person.

Intermediate Courts

Court facilities of the Superior and Commonwealth Courts SHALL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC as to non-essential functions through at least April 3, 2020. This Court’s best guidance is that essential functions include:

- a. Election matters;
- b. Children’s Fast-Track matters;
- c. Matters credibly labeled as emergency filings; and
- d. Any other function deemed by a President Judge to be essential

consistent with constitutional limitations.

Courts of Common Pleas

1) Court facilities in all judicial districts SHALL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC as to non-essential functions through at least April 3, 2020. This Court’s best guidance is that essential functions include:

- a. Emergency bail review and habeas corpus hearings;
- b. Gagnon I hearings;
- c. Bench warrant hearings pursuant to Rule of Criminal Procedure 150;
- d. Juvenile delinquency detention;
- e. Juvenile emergency shelter and detention hearings;
- f. Temporary protection from abuse hearings;
- g. Emergency petitions for child custody or pursuant to any provision of the

Juvenile Act;

- h. Emergency petitions for guardianship;
- i. Civil mental health reviews, *see* 50 P.S. §7302;
- j. Emergency equity civil matters (injunctions and stays);
- k. Any pleading or motion relating to public health concerns and *involving immediate and irreparable harm*; and

l. Any other function deemed by a President Judge to be essential consistent with constitutional requirements.

2) All court calendars, scheduling notices, subpoenas or other court orders compelling the appearance of any attorney, litigant, or other participant in any non-essential case are hereby continued or postponed until further order of a President Judge or a presiding judge that is not inconsistent with this Order or a directive of a President Judge.

3) Jury and non-jury trials, both criminal and civil, are SUSPENDED and will be scheduled for a date in the future by the courts.

4) Jurors SHALL NOT REPORT for jury duty on or before April 3, 2020, except as provided for ongoing trials pursuant to the directives below.

5) Unless otherwise required herein, any in-person pretrial conference, case management conferences, status conference, diversionary program, discovery motions practice,

motions practice or other hearing, whether civil or criminal, is hereby postponed until a future date to be set forth by the courts. To the extent that such matters may be handled through advanced communication technology consistent with constitutional limitations, THEY MAY AND SHOULD PROCEED.

6) Bail review requests for habeas corpus SHALL BE REVIEWED on a case-by-case basis consistent with the Rules of Criminal Procedure and the Pennsylvania Constitution.

7) Hearings on essential functions SHALL BE HELD in courtrooms designated by the individual courts of common pleas to minimize person-to-person contact.

Magisterial District Courts, Philadelphia Municipal court, Philadelphia Arraignment Court Magistrates and Pittsburgh Municipal Court, Arraignment Division

1) All Magisterial District Courts, Philadelphia Municipal Court, Philadelphia Arraignment Court and Pittsburgh Municipal Court, Arraignment Division, SHALL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC except essential functions. This Court’s best guidance is that essential functions include:

- a) Preliminary arraignments (bail setting) forailable cases;
- b) Criminal case filings and subsequent processing;
- c) Preliminary hearings for incarcerated persons only;
- d) Issuance of search warrants;
- e) Emergency protection from abuse petitions; and
- f) Any other function deemed by a President Judge to be essential

consistent with constitutional limitations.

2) Advanced communication technology or closed-circuit video technology SHALL BE USED to complete as many of these functions as practicable consistent with constitutional limitations, and necessary accommodations shall be made, to the extent practicable, to ensure that these essential functions can be adjudicate by use of such technology.

3) All other cases pending in these courts are POSTPONED.

4) Payments rendered to the Magisterial District Courts SHALL NOT BE MADE IN PERSON but may be accepted by mail, electronically (online), or by telephone as may be permissible in the Magisterial District Court receiving the payment,

5) In the event any scheduled payment is missed, or default of a payment plan previously imposed by the court occurs, the Magisterial District Court SHALL ISSUE a hearing notice scheduling a payment determination hearing to be held after April 3, 2020, or such date as shall be subsequently specified. Such missed payment or default SHALL NOT RESULT in the issuance of an arrest warrant for failure to make payment, nor shall the non-payment result in driving privileges being suspended prior to such hearing.

Landlord/Tenant

In addition to the above, this Court is aware that the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic may cause individuals to suffer a loss of income, which in turn may delay rent payments, mortgage-loan payments, or the like – including payments to be made by individuals who may be under self-imposed quarantine or who may otherwise be either carrying the virus or vulnerable to infection. In light of these circumstances, it is further DIRECTED that, during the period encompassed by this Order or the judicial emergency, whichever is longer, no officer, official, or other person employed by the Pennsylvania Judiciary at any level shall effectuate an eviction, ejection, or other displacement from a residence based upon the failure to make a rent, loan or other similar payment. Nothing herein is intended to preclude requests for orders of possession resulting from judgments entered in landlord-tenant actions to be filed by mail. However, any execution on an order of possession is stayed to a date on or after April 3, 2020, subject to further orders.

Prompt Trial and Ongoing Trials

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It is further DIRECTED that Rule of Criminal Procedure 600(C) is hereby SUSPENDED in all judicial districts during the period of the statewide judicial emergency. The purport of this directive is that the time period of the statewide judicial emergency SHALL BE EXCLUDED from the time calculation under Rule 600(C). Nothing in this Order, however, or its local implementation, shall affect a criminal defendant's right to a speedy trial under the United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions – albeit that the circumstances giving rise to this Order and the suspension may be relevant to the constitutional analysis.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary stated above, if a jury trial has already commenced, it may proceed to completion so long as the presiding judge, with the approval of the President Judge of the judicial district in question, determines that completion of the trial without delay is required in the interests of justice. In making such determination relative to a criminal trial, the restrictions of the Double Jeopardy Clauses of the United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions shall be considered.

This Court will continue to post on the Unified Judicial System website its Orders concerning the operations of the Unified Judicial System during the COVID-19 situation.

Attest: Patricia Nicola
Chief Clerk
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

March 18, 2020

Thomas G. Saylor, JD, LL.M.
Chief Justice, Pennsylvania Supreme Court
601 Commonwealth Avenue
P.O. Box 61260
Suite 1500
Harrisburg, PA 17106

Dear Chief Justice Saylor:

Governor Wolf and his administration are committed to doing their utmost to safeguard the health and welfare of Pennsylvania citizens during the present public health crisis. Accordingly, we are advising that additional protective measures are necessary to further restrict the amount of person-to-person contact and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

While recognizing the great concern for access to justice in Pennsylvania, we urge the court system to consider statewide closure of the courts, except for essential services, for a period of 14 days. We anticipate that some court business could be conducted remotely during this period, consistent with constitutional limitations, as is presently occurring in some parts of the Commonwealth. Such a closure would be consistent with the action that the Governor has now taken with respect to the executive branch and the recommendations announced on Monday, March 17, 2020 for businesses and organizations across the Commonwealth.

The administration urges that such drastic measures are now necessary to protect the health and lives of Pennsylvanians.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rachel L. Levine, MD
Secretary of Health