

March 21, 2020

In-Person Requirement Suspended for Court Reporters

Governor Wolf granted the Department of State's request to suspend the requirement for physical presence of notaries who are court reporters/stenographers participating in criminal, civil and administrative proceedings in this Commonwealth.

- The Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued an order declaring a statewide judicial emergency. The Pennsylvania Court Reporters Association has been substantially impacted by the COVID-19 virus. Depositions, arbitrations, hearings and many other proceedings are being cancelled right now. They could be held via phone conference, videoconference, or web deposition if a court reporter could participate remotely.
- Court reporters are notaries public, who in turn are officers authorized to administer oaths or affirmations, among other notarial acts. Current Pennsylvania law requires notarial acts, even those performed electronically with respect to electronic records, to be done in the physical presence of the notary.
- The Governor approved the request to suspend the physical presence of notaries who are court reporters or stenographers participating in criminal, civil and administrative proceedings.
- This suspension is temporary and will only last for the duration of the declared disaster emergency.