

IN RE: BUSINESS OF COURT

ORDER EXTENDING JUDICIAL  
EMERGENCY THROUGH MAY 31,  
2020

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
FOR THE 26TH JUDICIAL  
DISTRICT, COLUMBIA /MONTGOMERY  
COUNTIES PENNSYLVANIA

#1-2020  
CV

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CLERK OF COURTS OFFICE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PA

ORDER

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court authorized each Pennsylvania judicial district to declare a judicial emergency for their respective judicial districts on March 16, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, this court ordered a judicial emergency in the 26th Judicial District on March 16, 2020, and amended the order on March 18, 2020, effective through April 14, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ordered a statewide judicial emergency on March 18, 2020, effective through April 3, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court by Second Supplemental Order dated April 1, 2020, extended the statewide judicial emergency through April 30, 2020; and,

**WHEREAS**, by order dated April 6, 2020, this court extended the judicial emergency in the 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District to April 30, 2020, and;


Whereas, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Second Supplemental Order of April 1, 2020, authorized president judges "to declare judicial emergencies in their judicial districts through May 31, 2020, or for part of that period, should they deem it appropriate based on local conditions for the protection of the health and safety of court personnel, court users, and others."

**THEREFORE**, this 27th day of April, 2020, the court orders that:

1. The judicial emergency in the 26th Judicial District is extended through May 31, 2020, under the same terms and conditions set forth in previous orders.

2. After May 8, 2020, court proceedings may include non-essential functions of the court in the discretion of the individual judges in consultation with counsel, provided all parties shall comply with this court's order of April 20, 2020, and paragraph 4 and 5 below, i.e., safety measures.
3. Court proceedings shall begin being scheduled in June 2020 and thereafter according to usual court procedures. However, jury trials in the 26<sup>th</sup> Judicial District are cancelled until July 1, 2020.
4. During the court emergency and until the Pennsylvania Health Emergency is ended, the courts, court users, and others shall comply with safety rules and regulations imposed by the county commissioners on our respective court facilities, recognizing that the courts must continue to serve the public.
5. Social distancing and other directives and suggestions of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health for the safety of the staff and the public shall continue through and beyond the local judicial emergency.
6. After May 31, 2020, court procedures developed during the judicial emergency (such as but not limited to the use of videoconferencing, telephonic conferencing, and procedures to limit gatherings of large groups) shall continue indefinitely when possible and practical.
7. The court encourages court staff, counsel, litigants, and all others involved in the court process to permanently adopt efficient procedures developed during the court emergency and to discard inefficiencies that may have been insidiously engrained in the court culture.

BY THE COURT:

 P.J.

THOMAS A. JAMES