

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PIKE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
60th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN RE: 60TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA :
OPERATION OF JUDICIAL FACILITIES AND :
OFFICES, COVID-19 PANDEMIC : No. 403 – 2020 - Civil
:
: Pennsylvania Supreme Court
: Docket No. 47 MM 2020
:

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 29th day of April, 2020, upon consideration of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Order dated March 16, 2020 declaring a statewide judicial emergency, Order dated March 18, 2020 directing that all Pennsylvania courts be closed for general business purposes, beginning at the close of business on March 19, 2020 and lasting through at least April 3, 2020, Supplemental Order dated March 24, 2020, Order dated April 1, 2020 and Emergency Order dated April 28, 2020 extending the general, statewide judicial emergency through June 1, 2020, all of which resulting from the national, state and local COVID-19 Pandemic, as well as the authority granted to this Court under the Pennsylvania Rules of Judicial Administration and as approved by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and further recognizing the need to resume appropriate court proceedings in a safe and efficient manner and as directed and encouraged by the Supreme Court, it is hereby ORDERED AND DECREED as follows:

1. The local judicial emergency of the Pike County Court System shall be extended through Monday, June 1, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. consistent with the terms and conditions of this Order;
2. During the extended period of the local judicial emergency, the Court of Common Pleas and the Magisterial District Courts may and are encouraged to conduct such court proceedings, essential and non-essential, as reasonably practicable with priority consideration given to the health and safety of the general public, parties, attorneys, court staff and county employees;
3. In order to protect the safety of all persons using the court facilities and to enable the Courts to carry out their constitutional duties, the Court authorizes and encourages the use of advanced communication technology to conduct such court proceedings during the period of local judicial emergency subject to any constitutional limitations;
4. In conducting any in court proceedings, the Court of Common Pleas and the Magisterial District Courts shall adhere, at a minimum, to the following CDC and/or common sense safety guidelines:
 - a. The Court shall allow no more than ten (10) people to be physically present in a courtroom or hearing room at any one time with it being noted that this number may increase upon written direction of the President Judge and consistent with any revisions to the CDC safety guidelines;

- b. The Court shall require that all in court participants practice social distancing of at least six (6) feet during the entirety of the proceeding;
 - c. The Court shall stagger the scheduling of legal proceedings so as to ensure compliance with the above safety guidelines; and
 - d. The Court shall ensure that adequate restroom facilities with disinfectant soap and sinks are available for use by in court participants.
5. The Pike County Sheriff's Office is hereby authorized and directed to deny entry to the Pike County Courthouse of any individual who:
 - a. Is currently directed to quarantine, isolate or self-monitor at home for the Coronavirus or symptoms related thereto by a doctor, medical professional or hospital staff;
 - b. Has been diagnosed with Coronavirus or symptoms thereof (and has not been medically cleared from isolation) or has had close contact with any other person diagnosed with Coronavirus or suspected to have had Coronavirus within the last fourteen (14) days; and/or
 - c. Has flulike symptoms, upper respiratory symptoms or a temperature over 100 degrees Fahrenheit at the entrance doors of the Pike County Courthouse.
6. The Pike County Sheriff, in consultation with the President Judge, is authorized to establish and implement appropriate limitations and restrictions for access to the Pike County Courthouse for filing legal documents, completing legal documents, appearing for in person court

proceedings and/or otherwise utilizing the Courthouse facilities for lawful public purposes during the extension period of the local judicial emergency including, but not limited to, limiting the number of appearance each business for filing documents and requiring parties and attorneys to submit their legal documents for filing and retrieving court documents through a plastic bin located at the front of the Courthouse.

7. The Pike County Prothonotary/Clerk of Courts' Office shall be open for filing of legal case documents from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on each business day commencing on Friday, May 1, 2020;
8. As of May 4, 2020, any time calculations and deadlines as imposed by statute, rules of procedure or order of court shall be calculated in conformance with the statute, rule of procedure or order of court. Nevertheless, any legal papers or pleadings which are required to be filed between March 19, 2020 and May 8, 2020 generally shall be deemed to have been filed timely if filed by the close of business on May 11, 2020.
9. The Court of Common Pleas' May 2020 Trial Term and May 8, 2020 Jury Selection are hereby CANCELLED;
10. The operation of Pennsylvania Rule of Criminal Procedure 600 shall remain suspended through the date of June 1, 2020 with it being noted that nothing in this Order or its implementation shall affect a criminal defendant's right to a speedy trial as provided in the Constitutions of the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

11. As of May 1, 2020 at 8:30 a.m., attorneys and parties shall file any legal documents only through the Pike County Prothonotary/Clerk of Courts' Office;
12. The remaining terms and conditions of this Court's March 16, 2020 Declaration as well as Administrative Orders dated March 19, 202 and April 2, 2020, except as inconsistent with the terms and conditions of this Administrative Order, shall remain in full force and effect.
13. This Administrative Order shall remain in full force effect for the time period set forth above unless modified by further order of the President Judge of this Court or of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.
14. The Courts of this Judicial District shall comply with all conditions of the Supreme Court's April 28, 2020 Emergency Order.
15. In the event of any inconsistency between the terms of this Administrative Order and the terms of the Supreme Court's April 28, 2020 Emergency Order, the Pike County Courts shall follow the directives of the Supreme Court's April 28, 2020 Emergency Order.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G H Chelak", written over a horizontal line.

HON. GREGORY H. CHELAK,
President Judge

c- Kelly A. Gaughan, Judge
Alan B. Cooper, Esquire, Magisterial District Judge
Deborah P. Fischer, Magisterial District Judge
Paul D. Menditto, Sr., Magisterial District Judge
Randy Schmalzle, Magisterial District Judge
Pike County Commissioners
Pike County District Attorney
Pike County Public Defender
Pike County Jail
Pike County Probation
Pike County Prothonotary
Pike County Sheriff
Court Administrator