

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF
PIKE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
CRIMINAL DIVISION**

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA	:	
	:	
	:	
vs.	:	No. 19 - 2015
	:	
ERIC MATTHEW FREIN,	:	
	:	
Defendant	:	

DECORUM ORDER GOVERNING JURY TRIAL

AND NOW, this 29th day of March, 2017, upon consultation with the Pike County Court Administrator and Pike County Sheriff, the following Order is entered;

The terms of this Order apply to jury trial in the above matter which is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. on April 4, 2017 in the Main Courtroom, Pike County Courthouse, 412 Broad Street, Milford, Pennsylvania 18337.

The provisions noted as "Mandatory" shall be applied by the Court and enforced accordingly by its officers and agents. The provisions noted as "Information" are intended to provide meaningful structure and guidance to those reporters and members of the general public who will be attending the proceedings.

Additional information will be made available on the Court's website:

www.pikepa.org

MANDATORY

1. Court Access: All members of the public and members of the press must enter the Pike County Courthouse through the main entrance located on Broad Street. Any person with a disability which necessitates special access or accommodation may enter the Courthouse facility through the rear entrance door located along West High Street. A member of the Sheriff's Office will be present to grant access to such person. Access from any other courthouse entrance by members of the public or press shall not be permitted.

2. Jurors: The transportation of all selected jurors to and from the court facilities shall be arranged and implemented by the Pike County Sheriff's Office.

3. Courtroom: The jury trial in the above case shall be conducted in the Main Courtroom of the Pike County Courthouse, Milford, Pennsylvania.

4. Press: All members of the press shall be required to obtain credentials to obtain a seat in the Main Courtroom during the course of the trial. **To be eligible to receive a court issued press credential, a reporter must first have registered with the Court in accordance with the procedures posted on the court administration website noted above.** Credentials may be issued to specific media outlets, in lieu of individual reporters of an outlet, to enable the reporters of that outlet to "swap out" the credential with other reporters employed by the same media outlet. The number of reporters employed by the same media outlet allowed into the Main Courtroom on any given day of jury trial shall be

solely determined by the Pike County Sheriff's Office in coordination with court personnel. **No reporter shall be permitted by the Sheriff to enter the Main Courtroom without exhibiting a court authorized press credential.**

5. Allocation of Seats:

a. During trial:

i. Allocation of seats in Main Courtroom:

1. Press—To be seated in pre-assigned seats as determined by the Pike County Sheriff's Office in coordination with court personnel;

2. Public –To be seated on a first come first served basis as determined and implemented by the Pike County Sheriff's Office in coordination with court personnel. There will be no computerized pre-registration or pre-selection for the public.

Members of the press and public are notified that the final decision of seating of the press or public in the Main Courtroom rests solely in the discretion of the Pike County Sheriff's Office in coordination with court personnel. Actual seating assignments of the press and public may vary according to the need to accommodate, *inter alia*, the seating of individuals involved in the case including witnesses, family members of the parties, attorneys, court personnel or other individuals involved in the case.

a. Members of the press and public attending the jury trial proceedings shall abide by all rules and regulations governing individuals using the court facilities at the Pike County Courthouse as established by the Pike County Court of Common Pleas and the

Pike County Sheriff.

- b. The Court and the Sheriff reserve the right to implement additional rules and regulations or modify the same as in their sole discretion are necessary for the proper order and process of the jury trial in the above case.

6. Electronic Devices:

- a. All members of the press and the public shall abide by the Pike County Court of Common Pleas' and Pike County Sheriff's policy regarding the possession and/or use of any cell phone, laptop computer, smart phone, or similar electronic device while in the Pike County Courthouse. All members of the press and the public intending to attend any day of the jury trial must familiarize himself or herself regarding the County policy on electronic devices in the Pike County Courthouse prior to the date of attendance. A printed notice of the aforementioned policy is posted on the main entrance doors to the Pike County Courthouse.
- b. The possession of any cell phone, photographic device, recording device and/or electronic device is strictly prohibited in the Pike County Courthouse. The use of any cell phone, photographic device, recording device and/or electronic device is likewise strictly prohibited in the Pike County Courthouse. Any individual who violates this rule shall be subject to refusal to enter the Pike County Courthouse or the Main Courtroom and/or attend the jury

trial proceedings.

- c. The Court reserves the right to implement additional rules and regulations or modify the same regarding the possession and/or use of cell phones, photographic devices, recording devices and/or electronic devices in the Pike County Courthouse as in its sole discretion are necessary for the proper order and process of the jury trial proceedings in the above case.

7. Sanction for Improper Use of Electronic Device: Any member of the press or of the public who violates the provisions of this Order or the Pike County Court of Common Pleas' or Pike County Sheriff's policy regarding the use of cell phones, photographic devices, recording devices and/or electronic devices in the Pike County Courthouse, in addition to other sanctions noted in this Order, will be subject to the penalties of contempt of court (including fines or summary incarceration) under any applicable statute, order or rule of Court. In addition, any reporter who violates this Order, the news organization the reporter represents, and any news outlet that intentionally and knowingly rebroadcasts or republishes any account prohibited by this Order, in the discretion of the Court, may also lose the privilege of being credentialed and/or permitted to attend the jury trial proceedings.

8. Leaving the Courtroom: Those seated in the Main Courtroom during the jury trial proceedings are expected to remain in their seats until the Court either calls a recess of court or the court session has ended. If a person is required to

leave the Courtroom during the jury trial proceedings, he or she shall do so in a prompt, quiet manner so as not to disrupt the court proceedings. Any such individual leaving a courtroom during the jury trial proceedings may be asked to delay his or her re-entry into the courtroom at the sole discretion of the Sheriff so as not to disrupt the court proceedings. Those who leave an area deemed secure by the Sheriff may be required to undergo a security screening before being readmitted to the Courthouse and/or Courtroom.

9. Interviews: No news media interviews whatsoever shall be conducted inside of the Pike County Courthouse. Interviews may be conducted on the front lawn area of the Pike County Courthouse grounds in specific areas as designated by the Pike County Sheriff's Office. Members of the media are expected to inquire with the Sheriff's Office as to the location of the designated interview areas prior to conducting a media interview on the Courthouse grounds. In no instance shall a media interview be conducted so as to block or restrict access into and out of the Courthouse facility.

10. Sheriff's Authority: The Sheriff of Pike County, in consultation with the Court, shall have the authority to make such reasonable rules and regulations as may be required to implement this Order and to provide adequate security intended to assure the safety of all those in the Pike County Courthouse, and on the Courthouse grounds and to assure the orderly conduct of the Jury Trial Proceedings. Such regulations may include, among others:

- a. Prohibiting backpacks, large purses or satchels in the Courtroom or the Courthouse, except as specifically permitted by the Sheriff and Court;
- b. Prohibiting taking food or beverages into the Courtroom; and
- c. Barring any person, except those immediately involved in the jury trial proceedings, from passing beyond the bar in the Courtroom.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Parking: Parking near the Pike County Courthouse is limited. Reporters and members of the public who will be attending the jury trial proceedings should allow ample time to find parking and make their way to the Courthouse.

2. Interference With Jurors: It is a serious criminal offense under Pennsylvania Law for any person to influence, intimidate or impede a juror selected to serve. Selected jurors have been instructed to report to the Court if any member of the media, any person connected with the jury trial proceedings of the case, or other person has discussed with them the facts of the case, attempted to influence their opinion, or otherwise attempted to influence their participation.

3. Court's Authority: While policies and procedures associated with media and public access to court proceedings vary from county to county within the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the ultimate authority to supervise the jury trial proceedings in the above case and all associated events and the application of such policies and procedures rests exclusively with the Court.

4. Inquiries:

- a. All Inquiries regarding policies governing access to and attendance in the Pike County Courthouse should be directed to Sheriff Philip Bueki of the Pike County Sheriff's Office, 570-296-6459.
- b. All other inquiries regarding the above case and jury trial proceedings should be directed to Samantha G. Venditti, Esquire, Pike County Court Administrator, 570-296-3556.

BY THE COURT:



Honorable Gregory H. Chelak, J.