

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF POTTER COUNTY
ACCESS TO JUDICIAL FACILITIES
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

6 MISC 202

PROTH. & CLERK
POTTER COUNTY
2021 FEB 26 AM 9 02

FILED

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF COURT

AND NOW, this 24th day of February, 2021, upon consideration of Order of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court dated May 27, 2020, effective June 1, 2020, entered by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court at In Re: General Statewide Judicial Emergency, Nos. 531 and 532 Judicial Administration Docket, which vested President Judges with authority to exercise emergency powers under Rule 1952(B)(2) of the Pennsylvania Rules of Judicial Administration, a judicial emergency having been declared in the Fifty-Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Potter County, which remains in effect, in an effort to mitigate the community spread of the novel Coronavirus/COVID-19 within the Fifty-Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DECREED, as follows:

1. The existing judicial emergency declared by Judge Stephen Minor, President Judge, on March 16, 2020 as supplemented thereafter in the Fifty-Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Potter County, is extended pursuant to this Administrative Order of Court until April 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
2. All Court facilities within the Fifty-Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania Potter County, shall be immediately accessible provided all persons entering a Court facility within the Fifty-Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania shall be required to properly wear a face covering at all times while inside any such court facility and to maintain social distancing. In addition, any person entering a court facility within the Fifty-

Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania shall be required to strictly comply with all directives and recommendations of the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) and Center For Disease Control (CDC) regarding the novel Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. For purpose of this paragraph, a Court facility includes the Potter County Courthouse, all Magisterial District Judge Offices, the Domestic Relations Office and Probation Department within the Fifty-Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania. Due to safety concerns, the number of additional persons appearing with the parties, may be limited by the Court, MDJ and Director.

3. Magisterial District Judges, Chief of the Potter County Adult and Juvenile Probation Department, Director of the Potter County Domestic Relations are vested with full authority and discretion to develop and implement any necessary written policies, procedures and safeguards they deem necessary and appropriate regarding the operations of their respective, Departments and Offices given the novel Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. All of the aforesaid Magisterial District Courts, Departments and Offices shall remain fully staffed in-person, open during normal business hours and shall operate as normal as possible given the novel coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Proceedings before the Court of Common Pleas of the Fifty-Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Potter County, shall be conducted either in-person or by advanced telecommunication technology and conference call as determined by the President Judge on a case-by-case basis.
5. Proceedings before the Magisterial District Courts and Director of Domestic Relations of the Fifty-Fifth Judicial District shall be conducted either in-person or

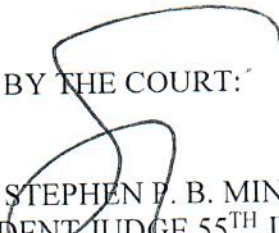
by advanced telecommunication technology as determined by the presiding Magisterial District Judge or Director on a case-by-case basis. Reference is made to the use of telecommunication previously approved by the Court as to proceedings before the MDJ. Except as directed by the MDJ incarcerated persons will participate remotely in all proceedings. Said procedure shall continue to be used during the term of this Order.

6. Use of conference calls may be used by the Domestic Relations Director, and sparingly by the Magisterial District Court if warranted given due consideration to the Defendant's Constitutional rights.
7. Jury Selection for the Court of Common Pleas shall commence on March 4, 2021 but may be curtailed depending on COVID spread and related safety issues.
8. All prior Administrative Orders shall be read in conjunction with the subject Order and enforceable collectively; however, if there is any inconsistency this Order shall control.

To constitute sufficient publication, this Order shall be:

- a. Posted on the entry doors of the Potter County Courthouse, all MDJ Offices, and Potter County Domestic Relations' Office;
- b. Posted on the Potter County Court of Common Pleas website; and,
- c. Transmitted via e-mail to the Potter County Bar Association members, and attorneys regularly practicing before the Court.

BY THE COURT:


STEPHEN F. B. MINOR
PRESIDENT JUDGE 55TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Cc: Judge John Leete
Court Administrator
Commissioners
Prothonotary
District Attorney
Public Defender
Domestic Relations
Probation
Sheriff
Deputy Warden
Register and Recorder
Judge McCleaff
Judge Easton
Judge Kalacinski
Potter County Bar Association Members
Tom Walrath, Esq.
Tom Shaffer, Esq.
Tom Patterson
Colleen Wilber
James Kockler
Ann Marie Rathbun
Danielle Gietler
Sarah Lieberman