

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF ARMSTRONG COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
ADMINISTRATIVE DOCKET

IN RE: 33rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT )  
 )  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS ) No. AD-2020-000004-PJ  
 ) 31 WM 2020  
 )  
 )

**ORDER OF COURT**

AND NOW, this 18 day of December, 2020, this Court declares a continued judicial emergency in the Thirty-Third (33rd) Judicial District of Pennsylvania. Pursuant to Pa. R. J. A. No. 1952(B)(2), the Court **ORDERS** and **DIRECTS** as follows:

1. All prior orders issued by the Court with regard to the current judicial emergency, including the Order entered December 17, 2020, hereby are superseded and replaced by this Order.
2. Armstrong County Court operations will be limited through March 31, 2021, as set forth below:

**General Provisions**

3. All time calculations for the purposes of time computation relevant to court cases or other judicial business, including statutes of limitation, Rule 600 in criminal matters, and general time deadlines, are suspended subject to constitutional restrictions.
4. Additional uses of advanced communication technology to conduct court proceedings is authorized and recommended, subject to constitutional restrictions. Attorneys must coordinate Zoom meetings and the Court will participate by

invitation from the parties and/or counsel. Witnesses for any proceeding hereby are authorized to participate remotely unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

5. From the date of this order until further Order of Court, all court participants, including parties, lawyers, staff, police officers, jurors, and witnesses, shall continue to wear face masks at all times while in the courthouse and shall comply with the social distancing and safety protocols as recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Pennsylvania Department of Health or as otherwise specifically ordered and directed by this Court.

#### Civil/Orphans' Court Divisions

6. Unless otherwise indicated below or ordered by the Court, all civil and orphans' court matters currently scheduled through March 31, 2021, may be continued and/or conducted remotely due to COVID-19 concerns.

7. Civil jury selection and jury trials are suspended through and including the March 2021 trial term.

8. Motions heard by the designated Motions Judge shall be restricted to requests for injunctive relief relating to public health concerns or any other emergency motion.

9. Litigants with consented-to-motions may mail such motions to Court Administration or email them to [bcbenton@co.armstrong.pa.us](mailto:bcbenton@co.armstrong.pa.us). Any consented-to motions must include signatures of all parties or their counsel. If signatures are not possible, such motions must include an affidavit executed by the moving party indicating that all parties or their counsel have been notified of, and consent to, the relief requested in the motion. Any motions sent by email must be accompanied by

simultaneously mailed hard-copy originals sent to the Prothonotary/Clerk of Court's office. Contested motions also may be emailed to the Court Administrator with the original mailed simultaneously to the Prothonotary/Clerk of Court's office. All contested motions shall have attached thereto a scheduling order and a proposed order granting the relief requested.

### Criminal Division

10. Unless otherwise indicated below or ordered by the Court, all criminal court events in all courtrooms scheduled through March 31, 2021, may be continued and/or conducted remotely due to COVID-19 concerns.

11. Criminal jury selection and jury trials are suspended through and including the March 2021 trial term.

12. Bail hearings, bail revocations, probation/parole revocations (incarcerated individuals only), failure to appear ("FTA") hearings, and any other not continued criminal proceedings will be heard.

13. The Court will continue to process warrant requests as normal.

14. Criminal case status conferences, formal arraignments, plea court, sentence court, ARD court, summary appeals, license suspension appeals, and parole/probation revocation hearings (*Gagnon II*) may be rescheduled and/or conducted remotely.

### Family Division

15. Unless otherwise indicated below or ordered by the Court, all family court matters scheduled through March 31, 2021, may be continued and/or conducted remotely due to COVID-19 concerns.

16. Custody Conciliation Conferences may be continued and/or conducted by Zoom. In the event that the conferences are conducted by Zoom, the parties and/or counsel shall contact Court Administration or the Conciliation Conference Officer with contact information to which Zoom invitations may be sent.

17. Juvenile Dependency matters will be heard, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. For any non-continued proceeding, all necessary parties and counsel shall appear for disposition, adjudication, review, and shelter hearings, unless otherwise directed.

### Protection from Abuse

18. Protection from Abuse ("PFA") matters will be heard as normal.

### Juvenile Delinquency

19. Juvenile delinquency matters shall be handled on a case by case basis. Parties should appear for all juvenile delinquency matters scheduled before the Court, unless otherwise notified.

### Magisterial District Courts

20. Individual magistrates may reschedule currently-scheduled cases as they deem appropriate to a date after the expiration of this order. The following functions shall continue: preliminary arraignments, criminal case filings, search

warrant requests, emergency protection from abuse proceedings, on-call responsibilities, and preliminary hearings for incarcerated individuals only.

21. All time calculations relevant to Magisterial District Court proceedings located in the Pennsylvania Rules of Conduct, Office Standards for Civil Procedure for Magisterial District Judges and the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure shall be suspended.

BY THE COURT:

Chase G. McClister, J.  
Chase G. McClister, Judge