

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
GENERAL DIVISION  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

FILED

2020 MAR 31 P 12:40

CLERK OF COURTS  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY

In Re:

ORDER REGARDING CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS  
AT A REDUCED DOCKET OF THE COURT  
DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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JOURNAL ENTRY

The Judges of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas-General Division make the following findings of fact:

1. The findings of fact enumerated in the March 16, 2020, Order Declaring a Judicial Emergency and Continuity of Operations of the Court Due to COVID-19 Pandemic remain in effect and are incorporated herein by reference.
2. As the virus continues to spread and impact Court operations, the health and safety of all employees and the community remains at risk.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Judges of the Court will implement a reduced docket, with a focus on incarcerated individuals and emergency matters before the Court.
2. The Court remains "Open with Restrictions" pursuant to the March 16, 2020, Administrative Order.
3. The Judges of the Court agree that any Judge on assignment during the reduced docket period can preside over any proceeding of another Judge, except for the imposition of sentence.
4. Pursuant to Opinion No. 2020-002, issued by Attorney General Dave Yost on March 18, 2020, courts may suspend jury trials to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, and they may do so consistent with state and federal speedy-trial obligations. Although tolling speedy-trial time by suspending jury trial activity is an extraordinary step, it is lawful—and responsible—to do so during a pandemic emergency.
5. Further, the March 27, 2020, Tolling of Time Requirements order issued by the Ohio Supreme Court indicates the time requirements imposed by the rules of the Court and set to expire during the term of the order shall be tolled.

6. The period of reduced dockets, originally set to expire on April 10, 2020, at midnight shall be extended to May 8, 2020, at midnight. The Court will evaluate the effectiveness of the reduced dockets and may extend the period by further order if the COVID-19 pandemic remains.
  
7. This Order shall be served on the Supreme Court of Ohio, Ohio Judicial Conference, Municipal Courts in Cuyahoga County, Cuyahoga County Clerk of Courts, Cuyahoga County Adult Probation Department, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office, Cuyahoga County Public Defender's Office, Cuyahoga County Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association, Cuyahoga County Sheriff, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Cuyahoga County Executive, Cuyahoga County Council, the website of this Court, and distributed to the media.

***IT IS SO ORDERED.***

CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT-GENERAL DIVISION

  
HON. BRENDAN J. SHEEHAN  
ADMINISTRATIVE & PRESIDING JUDGE

March 31, 2020  
DATED