

FILED

**IN THE AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

2020 Mar 16 10:15:22

2020 MI

JIM L...
CLERK

**TEMPORARY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19
(CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

The Presiding/Administrative Judge of the Akron Municipal Court makes the following

Findings of Fact:

1. On March 9, 2020 Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D “Declaring a State of Emergency” in response to the growing COVID-19 public health crisis.
2. On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 to be a global “pandemic” requiring “urgent and aggressive action” to control the spread of the virus.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Akron Municipal Court has developed a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis escalates. The continuum of responses is intended to protect public health, to maintain essential court functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Akron Municipal Local Rules of Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. The Akron Municipal Court’s security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.
3. The Employee Handbook provisions may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential court operations and functions.
4. The Akron Municipal Court authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings.

5. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary by assigned Judges on a case-by-case basis for a minimum of thirty (30) days pending further order of the Court, except the following:
 - a. Criminal arraignments for incarcerated defendants.
 - b. Proceedings involving incarcerated defendants at the assigned judge's discretion.
 - c. Search warrants.
6. With regard to criminal matters, due to the effect of the above public health recommendations on the availability of counsel and court staff to be present in the courtroom and the court's reduced ability to obtain the adequate spectrum of jurors, the continuances implemented by this Order are subject to R.C. 2945.72(H), "Extension for Time for Hearing or Trial." The Court specifically finds the public health interests are paramount and the ends of justice are best served by this Order.
7. The Akron Municipal Court authorizes the expedited purchase of emergency preparedness supplies to increase protections and technology equipment for remote access activities. The authorization provided by this section is limited to purchases necessary to prepare for and prevent the spread of COVID-19.
8. The Court will have the lawful authority, within constitutional limits, to do and direct to be done all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice for the duration of the declared public health emergency.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



HON. NICOLE ANN WALKER
PRESIDING/ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE,
AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT

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