

IN THE STOW MUNICIPAL COURT
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS DURING COVID-19) MISC. CASE NO. 2201
STATE OF EMERGENCY)
)
) AMENDED
) ORDER
)

On March 9, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued an Executive Order declaring a state of emergency for the state of Ohio based upon the Covid-19 pandemic.

On March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a state of emergency for the United States of America.

Based upon the state of emergency, until the end of the period of the state of emergency as declared by the Governor or further order of the court, the court orders as follows:

1. Court business hours will be from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. until May 29, 2020. Court business hours shall return to 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on June 1, 2020.
2. The court and all individuals in the court shall abide by all social distancing protocols ordered by the governor and the State of Ohio and any subsequent modifications to said protocols.
3. The arraignment procedure shall be modified as necessary to comply with this order and the aforementioned protocols to minimize health risks while maintaining court functions and the rights of individuals before the court. Effective June 1, 2020, criminal arraignments will return to 8:30 a.m. and traffic

arraignments will return to 1:00 p.m. Criminal arraignments shall occur Monday through Friday while traffic arraignments shall be held Tuesday through Friday.

4. The state of emergency is deemed a finding of good cause for any continuance deemed necessary by a judge or magistrate.
5. All jury trials are suspended through June 30, 2020. Jury trials shall re-commence on July 1, 2020.
6. Prosecutors, attorneys and defendants shall continue to attempt to conduct all pre-trial hearings electronically and shall promptly advise the court of the results of any such hearings. Failure to advise the court of the results of a pre-trial shall be deemed a failure to appear.
7. All civil matters that are not continued shall be conducted via telephone or video conference whenever practicable.
8. Parties are encouraged to submit all civil filings via the court's e-filing portal.
9. Parties are encouraged to submit all criminal and traffic filings in an electronic format approved by the Clerk of Courts, fax or by mail.
10. All community control meetings shall be conducted by telephone or video conference unless otherwise directed by the assigned community control officer. Full drug and alcohol screening shall re-commence on June 1, 2020.
11. All STRIDE participants shall appear as scheduled and as directed by the court and its agents, and shall continue all treatment plans and report for testing when ordered.
12. All evictions, garnishment hearings, small claims and miscellaneous civil hearings are continued through May 29, 2020. Thereafter, these matters shall proceed as scheduled.

13. Any civil motion scheduled for hearing shall be submitted on the briefs of the parties.
14. The court is closed for public visits.
15. Only court employees, law enforcement officers, parties and witnesses will be permitted to enter the court.
16. The court will comply with all aspects of the Supreme Court Tolling Order and Am. Sub. H.B 197. The court will continue to decide cases that have been fully briefed and submitted. The court retains the authority to issue an order varying from the Supreme Court Order and Am. Sub H.B. 197 when necessary and appropriate.
17. All in person court programs are suspended through June and will re-commence in July.
18. Criminal and traffic defendants charged with minor misdemeanors are encouraged to participate in their arraignment via Skype. The procedure is outlined on the court's website (Stowmunicourt.com).
19. Parties requesting continuances are encouraged to utilize the electronic continuance form on the court's website (Stowmunicourt.com).
20. All employees are required to have a face mask and shall wear said face mask when interacting with the public or in a public space or in any area where proper social distancing space is not possible.
21. All persons entering the court shall wear a face mask.
22. Anyone manifesting symptoms of COVID-19, including but not limited to a persistent cough, fever, shortness of breath, fever, chills, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, flu-like or other symptom of COVID-19, or that has experienced any

symptoms within the previous fourteen (14) days will not be permitted to enter the courthouse.

23. All persons entering the courthouse, including employees, shall comply with the protocol established by the court for COVID-19 screening, including but not limited to answering screening questions and submitting to the taking of temperatures.
24. Effective June 1, 2020, bench warrants, registration blocks and/or license forfeitures will be issued whenever a defendant fails to appear for a scheduled hearing.
25. The Order issued on March 23, 2020 in Misc. Case No. 2190 shall be terminated effective July 1, 2020.

KIM R. HOOVER, Presiding Judge

cc: Judge Lisa L. Coates
Amber Zibritosky, Clerk of Courts
Rick Klinger
File