

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
MIDDLE DISTRICT

FILED

In re: 56<sup>th</sup> Judicial District - Declaration  
of Judicial Emergency

: NO. 55 MM 2020

2020 MAY 29 PM 2:35

CARBON COUNTY  
PROTHONOTARY

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF CARBON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
56<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

In re: 56<sup>th</sup> Judicial District - Declaration  
of Judicial Emergency

: NO. CP-13-AD-002-2020 Clerk of Courts  
: 20-0575 Prothonotary  
: 20-9103 Register of Wills/Orphans Court

FOURTH AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 6-2020

AND NOW, this 29th day of May, 2020, pursuant to the authority granted in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Per Curiam Order dated May 27, 2020, and in accordance with the exercise of emergency powers under Rule of Judicial Administration 1952(B)(2), the Judicial Emergency in the 56th Judicial District is hereby extended through July 3, 2020. This Order prospectively replaces the Third Administrative Order No. 6-2020 docketed in the above-numbered dockets, which shall remain in effect until its expiration on May 31, 2020. Beginning June 1, 2020, the Court of Common Pleas and the Magisterial District Courts in this Judicial District shall generally be open to conduct all court business, unless otherwise specified herein, and subject to the limitations and restrictions provided herein.

JURY TRIALS

1. Jury trials, both criminal and civil, remain suspended and shall remain suspended until such time that they can be conducted consistent with prevailing health and safety norms. Criminal pre-trials scheduled for June 4, 2020 and June 11, 2020 shall be staggered and rescheduled by Court Administration for June 4, 2020 and June

11, 2020 and other dates of which the parties will be notified.

### IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS

2. All in-person criminal pleas, sentences and hearings to consider ARD applications shall be scheduled to be held in Courtroom No. 1 of the Carbon County Courthouse at one of the following staggered times: 9:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M., 11:00 A.M., 1:15 P.M., 2:15 P.M. and 3:15 P.M. Where a defendant is incarcerated, defendants are encouraged to allow such proceedings to be conducted by advanced communication technology with all required paperwork (*i.e.*, written waiver of in-person attendance, written guilty plea colloquy, and notification of post-sentencing rights) to be completed in advance of the proceeding and made available at the time of the proceeding. Court Administration is directed to make every reasonable effort to arrange such pleas, sentencings and hearings on applications for ARD dispositions where the defendant is incarcerated by use of advanced communication technology. Due to the continuing danger of spreading COVID-19 between prisons and correctional facilities, requests for transportation of defendants from state correctional institutions or out of county prisons to the Carbon County Prison for defendants to appear in person in open court may not be able to be accommodated.

3. At all proceedings and hearings before a Court of Common Pleas Judge, Magisterial District Judge, Custody Hearing Officer, or Support Master - including all proceedings where criminal pleas are received, sentences are imposed and action is taken on pending ARD applications - at which parties, their counsel, victims, advocates, or witnesses appear in person, all such persons will be required to wear masks during the proceeding (unless a medical condition of which the court has been informed prevents the wearing of a mask and the presiding judicial officer excuses this

requirement) and social distancing of at least six feet will be enforced. Excluding those proceedings involving a right to public and press access, no non-essential visitors, including children, shall be permitted to be present at such proceedings. With respect to those proceedings open to the public and press, provision shall be made to ensure some reasonable means of access. Nor shall anyone be permitted to attend in person who has been directed to quarantine, isolate or self-monitor at home for COVID-19 by a doctor, hospital or health agency, or anyone who has been diagnosed with or has had close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19, or anyone who exhibits flu-like symptoms.

4. To promote social distancing, Non-Support Court scheduled for June 12, 2020 shall be held in Courtroom No. 1 of the Carbon County Courthouse.

#### GENERAL DIRECTIVES

5. The use of advanced communication technology to conduct court proceedings that are not otherwise required by constitutional limitations to be conducted in person is encouraged and will be so scheduled in accordance with the directives of the presiding judicial officer to the extent the same can be done effectively and efficiently.

6. Consistent with previous Administrative Orders in this matter, continuances - when good reason exists - shall be liberally granted by the Common Pleas Judges and Magisterial District Judges of this Judicial District.

#### NOTICE

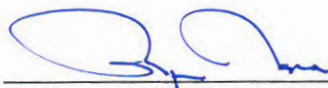
7. Within twenty-four hours, the District Court Administrator shall ensure that a copy of this order is:

- a. Filed with the Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in the Middle District Office;
- b. Transmitted to the Court Administrator of Pennsylvania;
- c. Posted conspicuously on the entry doors of the Carbon County Courthouse and on all Magisterial District Courts of the 56th Judicial District;
- d. Posted on this court's website; and
- e. Transmitted to the Carbon County Bar Association with the request that the Association promptly forward a copy to all members.

EFFECTIVE DATE

8. This order is effective as of 12:00 A.M. on June 1, 2020, and is intended to replace and succeed the immediately preceding Third Amended Administrative Order No.6-2020 dated April 27, 2020.

BY THE COURT:



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Roger N. Nanovic, P.J.