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ASHTABULA CO OH

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
ASHTABULA COUNTY, OHIO**

THE STATE OF OHIO)
)
ASHTABULA COUNTY) **JUDGMENT ENTRY**
) **MARCH 17, 2020**
)

IN RE: EMERGENCY TEMPORARY COURT ATTENDANCE POLICY AND ORDER

The Judges of the General Division of the Ashtabula County Court of Common Pleas make the following Findings of Fact:

1. Effective March 9, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine declared a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis and issued Executive Order 2020-01D.
2. The World Health Organization declared, on March 11, 2020, COVID-19 to be a global health pandemic and recommended "urgent and aggressive action" to control the spread of the illness.
3. On March 14, 2020, the President of the United States of America declared the public health crisis surrounding COVID-19 to be a "national emergency".
4. Executive Orders as of this writing have closed all schools in Ohio for a period of at least 3 weeks, closed many businesses and facilities, limited the scope of many other businesses and organizations, suspended gatherings of more than fifty (50) people, and recommended the limitation of gatherings where possible to no more than ten (10) persons.

In an effort to maintain essential Court functions while keeping in mind public and employee safety, and to continue to respect the rights of individuals subject to the authority of the Court, in response to the growing public health crisis and based upon these Findings of Fact, **effective immediately and until further notice**, makes the following orders:

1. Attendance at all Court hearings will be limited to the following:
 - a. The named parties in the action;
 - b. Counsel for the parties and any other attorneys of record in the case;
 - c. Any person summoned or subpoenaed in the case;
 - d. The victim of the offense in a criminal matter and/or their designated representative;
 - e. Any essential witness in the matter;
 - f. Limited media personnel in accordance with each Court's media policy; and
 - g. Court personnel.
2. All persons presenting at the courthouse for business with the court will be subjected to the ordinary screening procedures, and in addition, may be subject to a brief medical screening. Any person that presents with signs or symptoms of the flu or COVID-19 virus, including, but not limited to: fever, sneezing, coughing, runny nose, sore throat, or difficulty

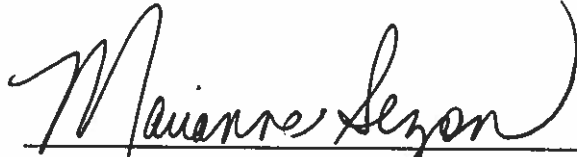
breathing, may be refused admission to the courthouse at the discretion of the Court and Court Security Officers.

3. All media shall comply with each Courts' media request policies.
4. The Court will maintain recommended procedures when conducting hearings and dealing with members of the bar and the public such as social distancing, and other practical methods to reduce personal contact.
5. These policies will be enforced by Court Security personnel and court staff.


IT IS SO ORDERED.



THOMAS E. HARRIS, Administrative Judge



MARIANNE SEZON, Presiding Judge



GARY L. YOST, Judge