

**IN THE CITY OF ONTARIO, MAYOR'S COURT
ONTARIO, RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

IN RE: MAYOR'S COURT OPERATIONS
UNDER EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES
CREATED BY COVID 19

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ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

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The Court takes judicial notice of the facts herein:

- March 9, 2020: Governor De Wine issued Executive Order 2020-01D declaring a state of emergency;
- 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;
- On May 1, 2020, Amy Acton, MD MPH, Director of Health instituted the Stay Safe Ohio Order.

Based on the finding of facts the Ontario Mayor's Court must take measures to protect the 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 Ontario Mayor's Court Local Rules of Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court the flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. The Ontario Mayor's Court security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.
3. Access to the courtrooms for all appearances and hearings are limited to attorneys, defendants, victims, and witnesses. Anyone making payments to the Court shall be granted access to the lobby. However, individuals are strongly encouraged to make payments online and by phone at official payments.
4. The public health emergency may be a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary on a case by case basis.

5. 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.
6. Criminal and Traffic arraignments will resume May 14, 2020 as scheduled with the use of social distancing, cleaning efforts, and all other precautions that will be posted outside the courtroom to minimize health risks to those appearing. Those appearing are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask.
7. Criminal and Traffic pre-trials will be conducted by phone.
8. The Court's hours of operation may vary.

The above stated measures will significantly reduce the number of individuals appearing in Court. Defendants can also take steps to eliminate or postpone their next court appearance by filing a continuance with the court or a Written Not Guilty plea and Time Waiver, all on a case by case basis. Forms are available with the Clerk.

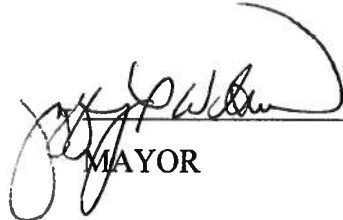
The Court will continue to monitor the ongoing COVID-19 situation and may issue further Orders to meet the Court's and community's needs and to ensure the orderly administration of justice.

This temporary order shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

5/13/2020
DATE


MAGISTRATE

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MAYOR