

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: 49<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY ORDER

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No. CP-14-MD-0495-2020  
39-MM-2020

JEROME S. BRECON  
PROthonOTARY  
CENTRE COUNTY, PA

2020 JUN 25 PM 2:25

FILED FOR THE CLERK  
**COPY**


**FOURTH AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

AND NOW, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020, upon consideration of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Order of March 16, 2020 declaring a general, Statewide Judicial Emergency, Order of April 28, 2020, extending the general, Statewide Judicial Emergency, and Order of May 27, 2020 ceasing the Statewide Judicial Emergency as of June 1, 2020, as well as this Court's previous Administrative Orders dated March 18, 2020, April 6, 2020, April 23, 2020, and May 29, 2020, it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED as follows:

1. The local judicial emergency for Centre County shall be extended through September 7, 2020 only for the specific reasons set forth below and for the time frames prescribed.
2. From the date of this Order through September 7, 2020, all Common Pleas judges and Magisterial District Court judges are authorized and encouraged to continue the following:
  - a. Using advanced communication technology, including Zoom, telephone and audio/visual devices, when reasonably possible and practicable;
  - b. Staggering court appearance times to reduce contact;
  - c. Limiting meetings, conferences and other gatherings to essential participants to reduce contact.
3. Hearings requiring personal appearances will be scheduled at the discretion of the presiding judge.
4. The June 2020 Trial Term is continued until August 2020. Criminal jury trials are continued to August 2020 and civil jury trials are continued to October 2020. The operation of Pennsylvania Rule of Criminal Procedure 600 shall remain suspended in Centre County until September 7, 2020, subject to constitutional limitations.

5. The Prothonotary's office will continue to accept filings by e-filing, by regular mail and by in-person filing.
6. The Domestic Relations office will continue to accept filings only by mail and e-filing. All conferences will continue to be conducted remotely.
7. Individuals permitted access to any court facility shall be required to maintain appropriate social distancing, wear protective face masks and must comply with all safety guidelines issued by the Court and Staff.
8. Only necessary and authorized individuals will be allowed entry to any court facility to minimize person-to-person contact. Members of the public, including the media, are permitted to observe court proceedings unless otherwise prohibited by law. Any person wishing to observe a court proceeding must contact the Centre County Court Administrator's Office one (1) business day prior to the proceeding in order for arrangements to be made to effectuate that person's attendance while complying with CDC guidelines and Centre County Safety Measures. Court Administration may be contacted by leaving a detailed message at 814-355-6727 requesting attendance at a court proceeding. Failure to make prior arrangements to attend such proceeding will result in entry to the proceeding being denied.
9. The purpose of this Administrative Order is to begin the gradual reopening of the Centre County Court system in a safe and efficient manner while adhering to CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines in order to protect all court personnel, court users and the public.

BY THE COURT:

  
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Pamela A. Ruest, President Judge