

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: JUDICIAL EMERGENCY ORDER : NO. 2020-00001

29 MM 2020

ORDER

AND NOW, this 5th day of May, 2020, the Court having declared a judicial emergency in the 38th Judicial District of Pennsylvania effective March 12, 2020, and thereafter extended by Emergency Declarations through May 31, 2020, the Court hereby **RESCINDS** all previous Judicial Emergency Orders effective May 31, 2020, and **ORDERS** the following, effective June 1, 2020:

- **Montgomery County Courts** - Common Pleas and Magisterial District Courts – will be **OPEN** to conduct business as outlined in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Order of April 28, 2020. Detailed protocols for the handling of cases in each division of the Court, and hours of operation, will be provided on the Court’s website prior to June 1, 2020;
- **One Montgomery Plaza** will remain **CLOSED** to the public until further notice. Any court matters previously handled in One Montgomery Plaza (Orphans’ Court, Arbitrations, etc.) will be held in the Montgomery County Courthouse and/or will be conducted by means of advanced communication technology;
- **Juvenile Court Facility** (Court side) at 540 Port Indian Road, West Norriton will remain **CLOSED** to the public until further notice. Juvenile proceedings will be held in the Montgomery County Courthouse and/or will be conducted by means of advanced communication technology. Parental visitation at the Youth Center may resume under strict safety directives;
- **Common Pleas Court Filing Offices** (Prothonotary, Clerk of Courts, Clerk of the Orphans’ Court) will be **OPEN** to conduct all court business, except for in-person filing. Filings will continue to be accepted on-line, by mail or at the drop-box at the Courthouse entrance. Bail can be posted at MDJ Offices as well as at MCCF. Orphans’ Court filings will continue to be accepted by the Prothonotary’s Office;
- The tolling of “**time requirements, time limitations or filing deadlines**”, imposed by court order or local rule, during the period of time covered by the judicial emergency will expire. Legal papers or pleadings which were required to be filed between March 12, 2020 and June 15, 2020, shall be deemed to have been filed timely if they are filed by close of business on June 15, 2020;

- **Local Rules of Court:**
 - Civil Rule 1915.3 (*Seminar for Separated and Divorced Parents*) and Local Civil Rule 1940.3 (*Custody Mediation Orientation*) are **reinstated** as of June 1, 2020 for all cases filed on or after June 1, 2020;
 - Local Civil Rule 4012 (Depositions, Place of Taking) **remains suspended** until further Order of Court;
 - Local Criminal Rule 117 (*Coverage: Issuing Warrants; Preliminary Arraignment and Summary Trials; and Setting and Accepting Bail*) is **reinstated** as of June 1, 2020;

- Access to the **Montgomery County Courthouse** will be limited to the Main Street entrance **ONLY**. All individuals who enter the Courthouse **MUST** comply with established County Health Screening requirements.

- Individuals permitted access to **any court facility** will be required to maintain appropriate social distancing, wear protective face masks and comply with all safety directives provided by the Court or County staff;

- **Montgomery County Domestic Relations Office** will remain **CLOSED** to the public until further notice. DRO filings will continue to be accepted (on-line, by mail or at the drop-box at Courthouse entrance), and DRO support conferences will be conducted using advanced communication technology;

- **Family Master Facility** (321 Swede Street) will remain **CLOSED** to the public until further notice. Family Master conferences and record hearings will be conducted using advanced communication technology;

- **Montgomery County Adult Probation Office** will be available to handle all matters. Supervision services will be handled using advanced communication technology. The APO Offices at 408 Cherry Street, Norristown and the satellite offices in Lansdale and Willow Grove will remain **CLOSED** to the public until further notice;

- **Montgomery County Juvenile Probation Office** will be available to handle all matters. Supervision services will be handled using advanced communication technology. The JPO Office at 530 Port Indian Road, West Norriton and the satellite office in Willow Grove will remain **CLOSED** to the public until further notice;

- **Montgomery County Law Library** will be **OPEN** to the public on a reduced schedule.

BY THE COURT:



Hon. Thomas M. DelRicci, P.J.