

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

WESTERN DISTRICT

IN RE: CLARIFICATION AND)
MODIFICATION OF THE AMENDED)
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT) No. 23 WM 2020
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS)
PLAN ENTERED ON MAY 28, 2020)

ORDER OF COURT

AND NOW, this 11th day of June 2020, this Court having declared a judicial emergency in the Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, this Court clarifies and modifies its previous Amended Emergency Operations Order entered on May 28, 2020 as set forth below. All other provisions of the Amended Fifth Judicial District Emergency Operations Plan entered on May 28, 2020 remain in effect.

Public Access to court Facilities

- All court facilities, including the courtrooms in all Divisions of the Court of Common Pleas, the Magisterial District Courts and the City of Pittsburgh Municipal Court, will be open to the public for matters as specified in the Amended Emergency Operations Order entered on May 28, 2020.
- Persons must wear masks to enter and remain in any court facility. Persons who are not compliant with this order, will be required to leave the court facility.

- Persons who enter any court facility shall comply with CDC and Health Department recommendations for social distancing as well as any signage posted in court facilities or instructions from a judge, judicial officer, Sheriff's deputy, police officer, constable, building security guard, or court employee.
- The public and the news media shall be permitted into court facilities to observe court proceedings that are ordinarily open to the public, but only in a manner that is consistent with public safety. Cameras shall not be used in any court facility, unless specifically authorized by the President Judge, Administrative Judge of a Division, or the District Court Administrator.
- Sheriff's deputies, police, constables, and building security guards assigned to court facility assigned to any court facility are authorized to deny admission or remove a person who is visibly ill or who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- Any person excluded or removed for health concerns shall be provided with information (telephone number or email address) to enable them to initiate, participate in, or complete necessary essential court business/functions during the judicial emergency.
- Only persons with essential court business are guaranteed admission into any court facility or courtroom, subject to restrictions above. Friends, family members, spectators, and other members of the public may be required to wait outside the facility as necessary to ensure public safety.

- Sheriff's deputies, police officers, constables, and building security guards shall have the authority to enforce all sections of this order. Persons who are not compliant with this order, will be required to leave the court facility.

Protection from Abuse

- All Temporary Protection from Abuse matters will be addressed at the Family Law Center, 440 Ross Street, Room 3030, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Temporary Protection from Abuse Hearings shall be conducted generally through videoconference. If a hearing cannot be conducted through videoconference, the hearing shall be held by audio or teleconference.
- Effective Tuesday, June 16, 2020, Temporary Protection from Abuse Petitions will be prepared and processed between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.

BY THE COURT:



_____, P.J.
Kim Berkeley Clark
President Judge