

FILED

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MAUREEN G. KELLY  
LAKE CO. CLERK OF COURT

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
LAKE COUNTY, OHIO  
GENERAL DIVISION

In Re:

ORDER DECLARING AN END TO THE JUDICIAL  
EMERGENCY AND RESUMPTION OF NORMAL  
OPERATIONS OF THE GENERAL DIVISION

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JOURNAL ENTRY

The Judges of the General Division of the Lake County Court of Common Pleas make the following orders concerning the General Division only:

1. The General Division declares an end to the judicial emergency declared on March 13, 2020, and hereby resumes normal operations, effective immediately, with full hearings and trials, both civil and criminal, jury and bench, to the extent possible under the circumstances.

2. The local rules of court may be temporarily adapted to allow court flexibility, within constitutional limits, in response to any public health concerns.

3. The court's security policies may be temporarily adapted to protect public health while maintaining court functions.

4. The court's, and county's (to the extent that it affects court employees), employee handbook and human resource provisions may be temporarily adjusted to maintain court operations and functions.

5. Judicial and clerk's staff, attorneys, witnesses, jurors, and security personnel who exhibit signs of illness shall notify their employing or reporting authority by telephone or email and shall not come into the courthouses or report for duty unless specifically instructed to do so by the employing or reporting authority. Any person entering or employed in the courthouse may be subject to health screening or testing, if testing is available, and exclusion from admission based upon the results of such screening or testing.

6. The court shall continue to minimize the amount of social interaction of litigants, attorneys, witnesses, jurors, victims, advocates, spectators, law enforcement personnel, and judicial personnel who are present in the courthouse, and may require distancing and may offer or require personal protective equipment.

7. The Lake County Clerk of Courts may conduct business in the clerk's offices as determined by the clerk, including continuing to accept filings by email.

8. Judges and magistrates may continue to conduct proceedings remotely, telephonically, or by videoconference, in the discretion of the judge assigned to the matter.

9. Criminal arraignments may be held by video from the Lake County Adult Detention Facility, any institution of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, or any other facility.

10. The Lake County Grand Jury for the January Term 2020 is hereby discharged.

11. This order does not supersede, modify, affect, or negate any tolling of any time requirements as declared or implemented as of March 9, 2020 by the General Assembly and/or Supreme Court of Ohio.

12. In the event of a significant resurgence of COVID-19, or any other public health concern, the judges, or any judge, in the exercise of discretion, immediately may adopt any procedure in the conduct of operations that the judges collectively, or any judge individually, determines necessary to protect persons in the courthouse or an individual judge's courtroom and surroundings.


13. This Order shall be served on the Supreme Court of Ohio, Ohio Judicial Conference, Municipal Courts in Lake County, Lake County Clerk of Courts, Lake County Adult Probation Department, Lake County Bar Association, Lake County Prosecutor's Office, Lake County Public Defender's Office, Lake County Sheriff's Office, Lake County General Health District, Lake County Board of Commissioners, the websites of each of the divisions of this court, and the media.

***IT IS SO ORDERED.***




**GENERAL DIVISION**

  
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**JUDGE EUGENE A. LUCCI**

  
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**JUDGE VINCENT A. CULOTTA, Pres.**

  
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**JUDGE JOHN P. O'DONNELL**

  
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**JUDGE PATRICK J. CONDON, Admin.**