



THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF STARK COUNTY

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PRESS RELEASE **March 23, 2020**

The General Division of the Stark County Court of Common Pleas continues to adjust practices and policies pursuant to its March 13, 2020 Temporary Order in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis. Initial responses by the Court included enhanced sanitation protocols, severe limitations on courthouse access, temporary suspension of trials, telephonic pretrial hearings in all civil cases, video hearings in all cases with jailed defendants, staggered employee shifts, and work-at-home options for employees. The Judges continue to meet on at least every week to reevaluate practices and policies. The following adjustments were issued by the Judges on March 23, 2020:

1. All civil jury trials scheduled to begin before June 1, 2020 are postponed. The Court encourages counsel and parties in pending civil cases to work toward resolution of their disputes. Pending trials will be rescheduled in consultation with the assigned Judges.
2. The Court will continue the suspension of all criminal jury trials until April 20, 2020, unless the trial must be conducted on an emergency basis due to statutory and constitutional requirements.
3. All collection efforts on judgments are stayed until June 1, 2020, including but not limited to debtor examinations, garnishments, sheriff sales and replevins.
4. New foreclosure case filings will be stayed until further order of the Court. Proceedings in all pending foreclosure cases will be stayed. The Foreclosure Mediation Program will be temporarily suspended.
5. All civil case mediations scheduled to occur on or before May 29, 2020 are continued. New dates if a case remains unresolved should be scheduled through status calls with the office of the assigned Judge.

The Court will continue to take measures necessary to protect the public, attorneys, and our staff.

This updated press release is posted on the Court's website at www.starkcountyohio.gov/common-pleas/news. Questions may be directed to the Court Administration Office at 330-451-7707.