

KNOX COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, MOUNT VERNON, OHIO 43050

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
KNOX COUNTY, OHIO  
RICHARD D. WETZEL, JUDGE

FILED  
KNOX COUNTY  
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
2020 MAY -4 AM 10:51  
CHRISTY MILLIGAN STATION  
CLERK OF COURTS

IN RE:  
COVID-19 VIRUS AND ALL MATTERS INVOLVING GRAND JURY  
PROCEEDINGS

JOURNAL ENTRY DESIGNATING TEMPORARY COURT LOCATION;  
OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 2301.04; TEMPORARY EMERGENCY  
COURT OPERATIONS PROTOCOL FOR COVID-19 RISKS

The matter of public health considerations and responses to the COVID-19 virus, and current declarations of the President of the United States, and the Governor of the State of Ohio, are before the Court this 30th day of April 2020. In order for the Court to assist all state and local agencies in maintaining public health and safety; and to assist our local law enforcement and healthcare community in preserving all available resources; and to assure the protection of the Constitutional rights of all individuals subject to the jurisdiction of this Court; upon the Court's own motion, the following Temporary Emergency Court Operations Protocol is hereby adopted as a Temporary Emergency Order effective immediately:

It is necessary, by virtue of extraordinary circumstances relating to the declared public health emergency, and considerations for the public health and safety of the community, for the Court to convene for purposes of proceedings of the Grand Jury of Knox County, on a temporary basis limited to the matters coming before this Court beginning on the 1st day of April 2020 and continuing until further Order of this Court, at the following location:

Knox County Memorial Building, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050. All counsel, grand jurors, witnesses and victims shall report to the Knox County Memorial Building.

**IT IS SO ORDERED**, that the Court of Common Pleas, and all counsel, grand jurors, parties, victims, and personnel necessary for purposes of effecting the terms and conditions of this Order, shall convene and appear at the Knox County Memorial Building, beginning on the 1st day of April, 2020, and thereafter from time to time as scheduled or convened by this Court.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, that all persons reporting for Grand Jury duty shall be directed by the bailiff to appropriate seating to allow for sufficient distance between individuals in accordance with current health practices and orders of the Ohio Department of Health. For purposes of selection of the Grand Jury, the auditorium shall be used, and the Court has made accommodations for the seating in the auditorium of all grand jurors in the venire panel with appropriate safe distance between grand jurors. After selection and administration of the grand juror oath, the Grand Jury shall meet in the ballroom of the Memorial Building, where the Court has made additional accommodations for seating with appropriate safe distance between all grand jurors. Facial covering may be worn by any grand juror, attorney, witness, or other court personnel, in their discretion. All persons shall observe appropriate and recommended health and sanitation practices during their participation in the proceedings.

This Order shall continue as a Temporary Emergency Order, for the duration of the declared public health emergency, and until rescinded or modified by this Court. **IT IS SO ORDERED** this 30 day of April 2020, effective *nunc pro tunc* April 1, 2020.

  
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RICHARD D. WETZEL, JUDGE