

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE 39TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Franklin County and Fulton County Branches

2020-1129

In Re: 39th Judicial District : Emergency Judicial Order
: :
: : 57 MM 2020
: :

Amended Emergency Judicial Order

And now this 25th day of June, 2021,

PROTHONOTARY
FRANKLIN COUNTY PA
2021 JUN 25 PM 3:11
TAMARA S. STANSELLER
PROTHONOTARY
DEPUTY

WHEREAS, this court entered an Amended Emergency Judicial Order on April 21, 2021, extending the judicial emergency due to the ongoing presence of the Covid-19 virus in the 39th Judicial District until July 1, 2021;

AND WHEREAS, June 21, 2021 the Pennsylvania Supreme Court entered a Per Curiam Order of Court, which stated that effective July 6, 2021, the operation of the Unified Judicial System “shall return to pre-pandemic status. All courtroom, adjacent judicial facilities, chambers, and offices within the Unified Judicial System shall be fully opened and staffed by judges and other personnel.”

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that **effective July 1, 2021** each and every Common Pleas Judge, Magisterial District Judge, Hearing Officer and panels of arbitrators shall resume conducting court consistent with the practices prior to the entry of the first Pennsylvania Supreme Court Judicial Emergency Order dated March 18, 2020, subject to the judicial facility limitations in Franklin County. All courts and court facilities shall be fully staffed and fully open to the public without restriction or limitation.

Civil/Orphans’ Proceeding and the use of Advanced Communication Technology. Effective July 1, 2021, Advanced Communication Technology (ACT) may be utilized for any and all Civil or Orphans’ court proceedings within the discretion of the presiding judge. The judge presiding shall be present in and conduct such proceeding from within the judicial facility, which includes chambers, if ACT from that location provides the most effective method to conduct the proceeding. In all other instances, the judge shall be present in a courtroom or hearing room and attorneys, litigants and witnesses may only appear via ACT with prior approval of the presiding judge.

Criminal Proceeding and the use of Advanced Communication Technology. Consistent with Pa.R.Crim. P. 119, effective July 1, 2021, all proceedings shall resume in person before a Court of Common Pleas Judge or Magisterial District Judge, unless the Defendant after being

advised by the presiding judge of their right to proceed via ACT obtains consent to proceed via ACT. If a Defendant does not consent to an appearance via ACT, their case shall be rescheduled to the next available time that the Defendant can be brought before the court for an in person appearance.

Covid-19 Screenings/Masks/Social Distancing. Screenings for Covid-19 at court facilities and social distancing shall end as of 12:00 a.m. July 1, 2021. Social distancing in judicial facilities shall end as of June 28, 2021. Masks shall no longer be required to be worn in judicial facilities as of June 28, 2021. Nothing shall prohibit any person from wearing a mask if they so choose.

Signed: 
P.J.

Dated: 

Dist:
Board of Judges
Court Administration
Magisterial District Judges
Tim Sponseller, Franklin Co. Prothonotary
Todd Rock, Franklin Co. Clerk of Courts
Linda Miller, Franklin Co. Register and Recorder
Patty Fix, Fulton Co. Prothonotary/Clerk/Register & Recorder
Franklin Co. Sheriff Dane Anthony
Fulton Co. Sheriff Keith Stains
Chief Douglas Wilburne – Franklin Co. Probation/Parole
Chief Richard Ackerman – Franklin Co. Juvenile Probation
Chief Dan Miller – Fulton Co. Adult & Juv. Probation/Parole
Franklin Co. District Attorney, Matt Fogal
Franklin Co. Public Defender, Casey Bogner
Fulton Co. District Attorney Travis Kendall
Fulton Co. Public Defender Phil Harper
Conflict Counsel: S. Kulla, Esq.; E. Weisbrod, Esq.; K. Taccino, Esq.
Franklin & Fulton Co. Commissioners
Masters/Hearing Officers/Conciliators