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IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF MIAMI COUNTY, ON 5 35 JUVENILE/PROBATE DIVISIONS

JUDGMENT ENTRY

NO.

TEMPORARY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS ADDITIONAL ORDERS

The Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Miami County, Ohio, Juvenile/Probate Divisions makes the following Findings of Fact:

- 1. On April 27, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine announced some changes to Ohio's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They are a beginning and are all directed towards protecting the health of employees, customers, and their families, supporting community efforts to control the spread of COVID-19, and responsibly getting Ohio back to work.
- 2. On April 30, 2020, the Ohio Director of Health issued her Director's Stay Safe Ohio Order which is the beginning of Ohio opening back up for business.
- 3. In an email to Ohio Judges the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court made it clear that although we will keep Ohio courts open we must operate the courts within the directives of the Governor and the Director of Health.
- 4. Everything that can be done, must be done, to keep Ohio courts operating safely.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Juvenile/Probate Divisions of the Court of Common Pleas will continue a flexible responses in case the public health crisis escalates or increases in size or scope. The continuum of responses is intended to protect public health, to maintain essential court functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1. Effective May 4, 2020, and until further order of the Court all employees of the Juvenile and Probate Court will be required to use face masks or face coverings when entering the building and while on the Second floor. This includes the Judge and Magistrates when in the courtroom with others. If an employee has a private office, they are permitted to take their face covering off while in their office.
- 2. Employees must perform daily symptom assessment and are required to stay home if symptomatic.
- 3. Employees shall take their own temperature before leaving their home for work, and if their temperature is above 100.4 or if they feel ill they shall immediately notify their supervisor and they must not come into work that day.

- 4. Employees are required to take regular breaks to thoroughly wash their hands.
- 5. Hand sanitizer shall be placed in high-contact locations.
- 6. Effective May 4, 2020, and until further order of the Court, face masks shall be worn by the public entering the Juvenile/Probate clerk of courts, Juvenile probation offices and the Juvenile/Probate courtrooms. This applies to attorneys, litigants, witnesses, press, victims, etc.
- 7. Social distancing [6 feet apart where possible] will be required in courtrooms and in all common areas;
- 8. Signs shall be placed in locations to assist the public in complying with this order and to educate the public and employees on health safety guidelines.
- 9. Courtrooms and common areas shall be cleaned/disinfected daily and frequently consistent with the schedule provided by the Miami County Commissioners.
- 10. The Court highly recommends those attending or participating in Court proceeding or trial to wear gloves.
- 11. Attorneys and litigants are encouraged to continue to file documents by FAX/Email. Marriage license applications should continue to be made through the Court's website portal.
- 12. If there is a confirmed case the individual will be isolated and medical care will be sought. The Court shall work with the local health district about suspected cases or exposure.
- 13. The Court continues to authorize the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings.
- 14. The Court will have the lawful authority, within constitutional limits, to do and direct to be done all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice for the duration of the declared public health emergency.

15. The Court will continue to follow HB 197 and the Ohio Supreme Court Tolling Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

SCOTT ALTENBURGER, JUDGE

cc: Miami County Commissioners

West Central Juvenile Detention Center

West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center

Miami County Prosecutor's Office

Autumn White, Miami County Prosecutor's Office

Public Defender's Office

C.A.S.A.

Miami County C.S.E.A.

Miami County C.P.S.

Miami County Juvenile/Probate Court Employees

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