

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, BLAIR COUNTY
24TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

IN RE: 24TH Judicial District –

DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

**Supreme Court:
No. 20 WM 2020
Blair County No.:
No. 2020 MD 0003**

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 1st day of July, 2020, upon consideration of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Order of March 16, 2020 declaring a general, Statewide Judicial Emergency, Order of April 28, 2020, extending the general, Statewide Emergency, and Order of May 27, 2020 ceasing the Statewide Judicial Emergency as of June 1, 2020 as well as this Court's previous Administrative Orders dated **April 24, 2020 and May 29, 2020**, it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED as follows:

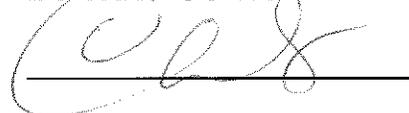
1. The local judicial emergency for Blair County shall be extended through September 7, 2020 only for the specific reasons set forth below and for the time frames prescribed.
2. From the date of this Order through August 31, 2020, all Common Pleas judges and Magisterial District Court judges are authorized and encouraged to continue the following:
 - a. Using advanced communication technology, including BlueJeans, Zoom, telephone and audio/visual devices, when reasonably possible and practicable;

- b. Staggering court appearance times to reduce contact;
 - c. Limiting meetings, conferences and other gatherings to essential participants to reduce contact.
 - d. Requiring court participants and attendees, including counsel, to wear personal protective equipment/"PPE" like masks or face shields and/or utilizing barriers in the courtroom and other social distancing techniques.
3. Hearings requiring personal appearances will be scheduled at the discretion of the presiding judge.
 4. Criminal and civil jury trials will resume beginning in August 2020, with jury selection in July 2020.
 5. The Prothonotary's office will continue to accept filings by e-filing, by regular mail and by in-person filing.
 6. The Domestic Relations Section will continue to accept filings via mail and e-filing. In-person filings will be accepted by appointment only. All conferences will continue to be conducted via ACT. Court proceedings shall occur using the court procedures as set forth in this Order.
 7. Individuals permitted general access to any court facility shall be required to maintain appropriate social distancing, wear protective face masks and must comply with all safety guidelines issued by the Court and Staff.
 8. Only necessary and authorized individuals will be allowed entry to any court facility to minimize person-to-person contact. Members of the public, including the media, are permitted to observe court proceedings. Other than media representatives, any person wishing to observe a court proceeding must contact

the Blair County Court Administrator's Office one (1) business day prior to the proceeding in order for arrangements to be made to effectuate that person's attendance while complying with CDC guidelines and Blair County Safety Measures. Court Administration may be contacted by leaving a detailed message at 814-693-3050 requesting attendance at a court proceeding. Failure to make prior arrangements to attend such proceeding may result in entry to the proceeding being denied. Entry will be limited by capacity of the courtroom and is not the decision or policy of the individual judge presiding.

9. The purpose of this Administrative Order is to continue the gradual reopening of the Blair County Court system in a safe and efficient manner while adhering to CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health Guidelines in order to protect all court personnel, court users and the public.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Doyle', is written over a solid horizontal line.

Elizabeth A. Doyle, P.J.