

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: 24TH Judicial District – : IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
Preliminary Hearings During : OF BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
Judicial Emergency : SUPREME COURT: NO. 20 WM 2020
: BLAIR COUNTY: NO. 2020 MD 0003

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 14th day of May, 2020, pursuant to the Supreme Court's Orders of April 28, 2020 and March 18, 2020 (Nos. 531 and 532 Judicial Administration Docket), this Court's Declaration of Judicial Emergency, and the prior Administrative Orders issued thereunder, the Court Orders as

follows:

1. Beginning May 18, 2020, preliminary hearings for non-incarcerated individuals will be scheduled at the discretion of the individual Magisterial District Judges.
2. Preliminary hearings for defendants who are in custody, barring extreme extenuating circumstances as determined by the Magisterial District Judge, shall occur via advanced communication technology (including, but not limited to, video

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and/or telephone and/or email) established by the Magisterial District Judge.

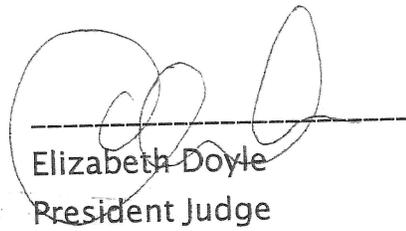
3. All attorneys, witnesses (including law enforcement officers) and victims shall be available to appear or attend preliminary hearings remotely by advanced communication. It shall be the responsibility of the Commonwealth (affiant/ DA/ victim-witness advocate) to notify any victims/witnesses, if applicable, and to secure their appearance by remote means.
4. All appearance or attendance by advanced communication will be by means established by the Magisterial District Judge in his or her discretion. The Magisterial District Judge may draw upon assistance of other agencies to establish advanced communication.
5. Counsel for the Commonwealth and the defendant shall confer as soon as practicable prior to the preliminary hearing to determine the defendant is willing to waive the preliminary hearing. An electronic copy of a signed waiver (i.e. faxed or scanned waiver)

or a remote waiver accomplished by methods established by the Magisterial District Judge will be accepted for filing.

6. Each defendant for whom a preliminary hearing is conducted by remote methods under this Order, or was waived while this Order is in effect, is automatically deemed to have reserved, for assertion at a date prior to the disposition of their case, but not later than forty-five (45) days after the termination of this judicial emergency, the right to petition for writ of *habeas corpus* under Pennsylvania Rule of Criminal Procedure 541 A.
7. In the Magisterial District Judge's discretion, after specific application and permission granted, parties may appear for preliminary hearings by socially distanced in person methods.
8. All persons attending a primary hearing in person after specific permission granted by the Magisterial District Judge, including attorneys, witnesses (including law enforcement officers), victims, and members of the media, shall wear masks or other personal protective equipment covering their mouth and nose for the protection of themselves and others.

9. This Administrative Order shall be effective as of the beginning date of the judicial emergency in the 24th Judicial District and shall continue until further order of this Court.

BY THE COURT:



Elizabeth Doyle
President Judge