

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
OF LUZERNE COUNTY

PROTHONOTARY LUZERNE COUNTY  
FILED JUL 30 '20 PML:23

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IN RE: 11<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT : NO: 4174 OF 2020  
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES : NO: 403 MD 2020

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**ORDER**

CLERK OF COURTS CRIMINAL  
LUZERNE COUNTY JUL 30 '20 PML:24

AND NOW, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020, this Order is HEREBY ISSUED to address the practices and procedures associated with the reopening of the Luzerne County Court system.

**A. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. All individuals entering any Court facility shall comply with CDC guidelines and/or directives of the Luzerne County Sheriff.
2. All individuals entering any Court facility shall wear a face covering.
3. No one other than the litigants, counsel and witnesses will be permitted to attend a hearing.
4. Litigants, counsel and witnesses are to appear at the Courthouse ten minutes prior to their scheduled court proceeding.
5. Members of the press shall be permitted to attend hearings if they comply with CDC guidelines and/or directives of the Luzerne County Sheriff.
6. Advanced Communication Technology (ACT) will be used at all times when possible and practical.
7. All jury trials are suspended until September 8, 2020. Jury selection will proceed as scheduled beginning August 24, 2020.
8. Admission to court rooms will be based upon physical/social distancing requirements as provided by the CDC guidelines and/or directives of the Luzerne County Sheriff.

9. Court employees will not attend any off-site conferences or trainings without prior approval by the President Judge.

### **FAMILY COURT**

1. Family Court motions requesting a custody conference shall be emailed to Sharon Mudlock at [Sharon.Mudlock@luzernecounty.org](mailto:Sharon.Mudlock@luzernecounty.org). The motion will be reviewed by the Judge and, if approved, the party filing the motion will receive a signed version returned via email for filing and service.

2. Family Court motions requesting special relief and/or contempt shall be emailed to Nancy Biscontini at [Nancy.Biscontini@luzernecounty.org](mailto:Nancy.Biscontini@luzernecounty.org). The motion will be reviewed by the Judge and, if approved, the party filing the motion will receive a signed version returned via email for filing and service.

3. Family Court motions for *pro se* individuals without access to email will be held on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Bernard C. Brominski Building, 113 West North Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711.

4. ACT will be used at all times when possible and practical at the discretion of the Judge or Hearing Officer.

### **CIVIL**

1. Normal motions hours (8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.) will resume as of August 3, 2020.

2. Civil jury trials will be held commencing September, 2020 subject to the parameters to be set forth by this Court. Jury selection will proceed as scheduled.

3. ACT will be used at all times when possible and practical at the discretion of the Judge.

## **ORPHANS COURT**

1. Normal motions hours (Tuesday: 12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. and Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.) will resume as of August 4, 2020 at the Penn Place Building, 20 North Pennsylvania Blvd, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

2. ACT will be used at all times when possible and practical at the discretion of the Judge.

## **CRIMINAL**

1. Pennsylvania Rule of Criminal Procedure 600 is suspended until September 14, 2020 subject to any intervening orders.

2. All hearings involving an inmate currently lodged in a correctional facility will be accomplished using ACT until further notice.

3. Criminal jury trials may be held commencing September, 2020 subject to the parameters to be set forth by this Court.

4. Specialty Court and Treatment Court will resume on August 7, 2020.

5. DUI Court will resume on August 3, 2020.

6. Juvenile Delinquency proceedings shall take place at the Penn Place Building, 20 North Pennsylvania Blvd, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

## **PFA COURT**

1. Protection from Abuse hearings will resume on August 4, 2020.

2. All PFA hearings will be staggered by time.

3. All ex parte PFA hearings will be held Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

**MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURTS**

1. As of August 3, 2020, all Magisterial District Courts will be open.
2. No one other than the litigants, counsel and witnesses will be permitted to attend a hearing.
3. All Magisterial District Judges shall insure that the litigants, counsel and witnesses are called into the court building one case at a time.
4. No more than five cases total (civil or criminal) shall be scheduled each hour and the times of the hearings must be staggered.
5. The general provision outlined in Section A also apply to Central Court proceedings.

COMPLIANCE HEREWITH IS DIRECTED.

BY THE COURT:

  
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MICHAEL T. VOUGH, P.J.

Copies To:

All Judges of the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
All MDJ Offices  
Paul Hindmarsh – District Court Administrator  
Court Administration  
David Pedri, Esquire – Luzerne County Manager  
Romilda Crocamo, Esquire – Luzerne County Solicitor  
Stephanie Salavantis, Esquire – Luzerne County District Attorney  
Steven Greenwald, Esquire – Luzerne County Public Defender  
John Hakim, Esquire – Luzerne County Office of Law