

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
OF LUZERNE COUNTY**

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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**

AND NOW, this 23 day of November, 2020, pursuant to the Judicial Emergency previously declared by this Court as approved by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the authority of the Court pursuant to Pa.R.J.A. 1952(B) to address the emergency circumstances and to protect the health and welfare of the public, litigants and employees to the extent possible, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED and DECREED as follows:

1. Pending further Order of Court, only civil and criminal proceedings which directly impact the health, safety, security, welfare or incarceration of an individual shall be held as would normally be scheduled. All other proceedings shall be postponed to a later date.

2. Central Court 11-0-01 will reopen on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.

3. All Magisterial District Court Offices will reopen on Monday, November 30, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

4. All in person Preliminary Hearings will be suspended until January 4, 2021. Preliminary Hearings for incarcerated Defendants will be heard beginning December 7, 2020 by video.

5. The following matters will be held as normally processed:

- PFA filings;
- PFA final hearings beginning the week of November 30, 2020;
- Bail posting;
- Preliminary arraignments;

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- Lift warrant hearings;
- Civil injunction proceedings;
- Mental health proceedings;
- Guardianships;
- Gagnon I Hearings for incarcerated Defendants (video)
- Specialty Court proceedings

6. All pro se Family Court filings will be accepted on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Bernard C. Brominski Building beginning on Thursday, December 3, 2020.

7. Judges shall review their individual calendars and whenever possible conduct necessary proceedings and/or conferences telephonically or by video. Each Judge shall take the appropriate steps in scheduling to their individual calendar to comply with the provisions of this Order. All parties must appear either by phone or video with the exception of the above outlined matters.

8. The District Court Administrator and the Office of Court Administration shall take all administrative steps to effectuate this Order.

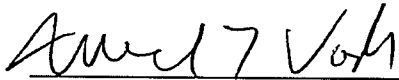
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all prior Orders of Court will remain in full force and effect.

IT IS FURTHER DIRECTED that this Order shall be posted in a public location in all Court facilities, shall be made available on the County and Court website and shall be provided to the Wilkes-Barre Law & Library Association for publication in the Luzerne County Legal Register.

THIS ORDER shall be effective immediately and remain in effect to January 4, 2021. (\*Amended)

COMPLIANCE HEREWITH IS DIRECTED.

BY THE COURT:

  
MICHAEL T. VOUGH, P.J.

Copies To:

All Judges of the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
All MD Judges of the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
Paul Hindmarsh - Luzerne County District Court Administrator  
Court Administration  
David Pedri, Esquire – Luzerne County Manager  
Romilda Crocamo, Esquire – Luzerne County Solicitor  
Brian Szumski – Luzerne County Sheriff  
Stephanie Salavantis, Esquire – Luzerne County District Attorney  
Steven Greenwald, Esquire – Luzerne County Public Defender  
John Hakim, Esquire – Luzerne County Office of Law  
Carla Bradley, Central Court  
Maria Augello - Director of Probation Services  
Kevin Kane - Director of Domestic Relations Section  
Official Court Reporter

\*Amended 11-23-20 to include effective dates of Order\*