

NOTICE

IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK AND IN AN EFFORT
TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC AND COURT STAFF WHILE
MAINTAINING NORMAL OPERATIONS,

EFFECTIVE FRIDAY MARCH 13, 2020 AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

THE CANTON MUNICIPAL COURT WILL BE OPEN UNDER
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND MODIFIED COURT RULES.

**ACCESS TO THE COURT WILL BE RESTRICTED
TO THOSE PARTIES AND LITIGANTS WITH
CASES(S) ON THE DAILY DOCKET AND THOSE
CONDUCTING OFFICIAL BUSINESS AT THE
COURT, I.E. FILING CASES, ACCESS TO CANTON
POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

THOSE SEEKING TO ENTER WITHOUT AN ACTIVE CASE OR
SEEKING TO CONDUCT OFFICIAL BUSINESS WILL BE DENIED
ENTRY.

JUDGES

Honorable Mary A. Falvey
Honorable Richard J. Kubilus
Honorable John A. Poulos
Honorable Curt Werren



COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Michael E. Kochera
MAGISTRATES
Jeremy J. Foltz
Derek McClowry

The Canton Municipal Court

PRESS RELEASE

March 16, 2020

In a continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in an effort to protect the public, court staff and maintain normal operations, effective Friday March 13, 2020 the Canton Municipal Court will remain open but operating under a Emergency Operations Plan until further notice.

The following operational modifications have been ORDERED, starting with the most recent modifications:

1. Criminal pretrials for defendants in custody will take place via the video system in courtroom #2 at 10:30AM. The Arraignment Judge will break from Arraignments in order for the pretrials to take place.
2. Booking/Fingerprinting of defendants has been suspended until further notice. The case management system will print out an Order for the defendant to report to the arresting law enforcement agency within 24 hours to be fingerprinted and booked. Notice to law enforcement agencies went out today.
3. Eviction Second Cause Hearings will not be set for a date certain, rather will be continued.
4. Small Claims Court will be reduced to one session per month. All scheduled hearings will be heard as scheduled.
5. Community Service Road Crew is suspended until further notice. Those assigned to community agencies please check with the agency prior to reporting for service.
6. Night Court Session will be suspended effective March 16, 2020.
7. Face-to-Face Probation and Pretrial Reporting will be conducted via phone and/or email through April 13, 2020, as directed by the supervising officer.
8. The Court will restrict access to the building to those parties/litigants with case(s) on the daily docket and those with official business with the Court, i.e., court filings, access to Canton Police Level, etc. Court patrons are encouraged to utilize the online or phone payments at www.cantontcourt.org or 330.489.3207 as opposed to making payments in person.

Additionally, under Emergency Operations Plan and pursuant to the Rules of Superintendence for Ohio Courts, Sup.R.5(A)(2), the Court may:

1. Suspend or modify the operation of any Local Rule of Practice;
2. Adopt temporary Local Rules of Practice;
3. Utilize alternative methods to conduct hearings, including but not limited to the use of audio/visual technology and/or telephonic hearings;
4. Continue matters sua sponte;
5. Regulate public access to the Court;
6. Modify the terms and provisions of the Employee Personnel Manual;
7. Do or direct to be done all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice;

The goal of the Emergency Operations Plan is to protect the public, protect the court staff and maintain normal operations. The Judges of the Court will monitor the public health crisis impact on the Court operations and formally review the necessity of any temporary rules at least every thirty (30) days and return to normal and regular operations as soon as public and staff safety and orderly administration of justice can be reasonably ensured.

All other currently scheduled hearings will go forward as scheduled.

STATE OF OHIO

IN THE CANTON MUNICIPAL COURT

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ADMINISTRATIVE ENTRY

STARK COUNTY

IN RE: NOTICE OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the coronavirus (COVID-19) a Pandemic and the Governor of the State of Ohio has declared a State of Emergency and ordered restrictions on public and social gatherings in an effort to curtail the spread of the illness; and,

WHEREAS, COVID-19 threatens to interrupt the orderly operation of the Canton Municipal Court and efficient administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to protect the court staff and general public; and maintain the orderly administration of justice, the Judges of the Canton Municipal Court, upon consultation with the Canton Health Department and Supreme Court of Ohio do hereby provide Notice of Emergency Operations commencing March 13, 2020 and until further Order of the Court; and,

WHEREAS, in order to maintain staff safety, public safety and maintain the orderly administration of justice under the Emergency Operations, pursuant to Sup. R. 5(A)(2), the Judges of the Court may:


1. Suspend or modify the operation of any Local Rule of Practice;
2. Adopt temporary Local Rules of Practice;
3. Utilize alternative methods to conduct hearings, including but not limited to the use of audio/visual technology and/or telephonic hearings;
4. Continue matters sua sponte;
5. Regulate public access to the Court;
6. Modify the terms and provisions of the Employee Personnel Manual; and
7. Do or direct to be done all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice;

WHEREAS, the Judges of the Canton Municipal Court shall post any suspension or modification of Local Rules of Practice or adoption of temporary Local Rules conspicuously within the Court as well as on the Court website at www.cantonscourt.org; and


WHEREAS, the Judges of the Court will monitor the public health crisis impact on the Court operations and formally review the necessity of any temporary rules at least every thirty (30) days and return to normal and regular operations as soon as staff safety, public safety and orderly administration of justice can be reasonably ensured.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


MARCH 13 AM 9:26



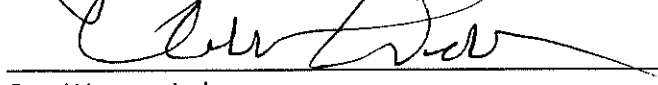
Mary A. Falvey, Judge



Richard J. Kubilus, Judge



John A. Poulos, Administrative & Presiding Judge



Curt Werren, Judge

Date: March 13, 2020