

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
GUERNSEY COUNTY, CAMBRIDGE, OHIO
PROBATE/JUVENILE DIVISION

In keeping with the gradual reopening of the economy as proposed by the Governor of the State of Ohio as a result of COVID-19 Pandemic the Guernsey County Common Pleas Court, Probate/Juvenile Division makes the following orders:

- 1) All pretrials shall be conducted by telephone unless it is impracticable due to the number of attorneys on a particular case. Counsel shall communicate with the Court one (1) day prior to said pretrial to confirm in person or telephone pretrial. Parties associated with the case are not to appear at the Courthouse for said pretrial hearings, but are to be available to speak with their attorney upon completion of said pretrial.
- 2) Hearings and trials shall take place as scheduled. The Court will be making attempts to allow sufficient time between hearings for a cleaning of the Court room when practicable. Persons coming to Court should not be accompanied by other persons who are not witnesses to the case at hand. With regard to juvenile delinquency/unruly/traffic cases, only one parent/custodian need attend the hearing. The Court reserves the right to limit the persons in the hallways of the Courthouse to preserve social distancing outside of the Courtroom.
- 3) No one is to enter the Courthouse who is ill or running a fever. Courthouse Deputies and Security shall ask questions regarding wellness of all persons and take their temperature. Courthouse Deputies and Security have the right to refuse admittance to the Courthouse of persons refusing to have their temperature taken, answer questions, or who indicate they are ill. The Court will be notified by Security if admittance is denied.
- 4) Continuances for illness will be liberally granted by the Court. If the Court believes this accommodation is being abused a doctor's excuse may be required. This will be determined on a case by case basis.
- 5) On a case by case basis the Court will determine if Counsel may attend hearings by video or teleconference. Any request to appear in this matter shall be cleared with the Judge or Magistrate prior to the hearing.

- 6) Persons who may be incarcerated will appear via video upon the installation of appropriate video technology. In those circumstances Counsel will be given additional time to discuss matters with the incarcerated individual outside the presence of the Court. The Court will continue to monitor this method of appearance on an ongoing basis.
- 7) Juvenile Probation and programing will continue as scheduled with modifications to reporting, drug testing, programs, and community service on a case by case basis. All persons coming to probation services will be prescreened by telephone to determine any health issues prior to their arrival at the Courthouse.

This order shall remain in effect until otherwise modified by the Court.

DAVID B. BENNETT, JUDGE