

**DeAnna Holliday**  
*President*

**Dr. Colton Copley**  
*Vice President*

**Freddie Hayes, Jr.**



**Summer Riley**  
Administrative Assistant

## **LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

111 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street • Ironton, Ohio 45638  
PH: (740) 533-4300 • FAX: (740) 533-4370  
Email: [ckline@lawrencegov.org](mailto:ckline@lawrencegov.org)

**To: Lawrence County Residents, Employees, and Supervisors**

**From: The Lawrence County Commissioners**

**Date: March 17, 2020**

**Subject: Actions taken for county-owned building usage from March 18 until further notice**

Thank you for your patience as we work through this challenging time. As everyone knows, Governor DeWine has declared a state of emergency in Ohio, and the Director of the Ohio Department of Health is limiting gatherings to try and prevent the spread of COVID-19. On March 15, 2020, the governor closed all restaurants and bars, with the exception of takeout and delivery. That was followed by the closure of gyms, theaters, etc. These are definitely uncharted waters we are trying to navigate.

It is in the same spirit that the commissioners, in conjunction with all the county's elected officials, are taking actions to limit gatherings and physical contact, while continuing services of the government in a reasonable way. Action relating to the use of county-owned (or operated) buildings are listed below. These actions are effective March 18 and until otherwise notified. Also note that everything is changing almost hourly, so the following is subject to change at any time.

### **County Courthouse – 111 South 4<sup>th</sup> St., Ironton**

**This building is open for scheduled appointments only.**

- The Board of Election access will depend on directives issued by the Ohio Secretary of State. As more information becomes available it will be shared with the public.
- Employees are continuing to work and will provide services using as much technology as possible.
- Members of the public should schedule appointments for necessary physical access to all other courthouse offices – Auditor, Treasurer, Recorder, Commissioners, Clerk of Courts, Prosecutor, Veterans, Probate/Juvenile Court, Common Pleas Court, Law Library, and Extension Office. If physical access can at all be postponed, please do so. Many activities can be conducted via phone, email, fax, or postal service.
- When it is determined that appointments are needed, we ask that everyone practice good social distancing measures.

**-An appropriate staff member will be notified upon arrival at the security entrance and escort you to the proper meeting place. If you are not on an appointment list, security will not allow you in the building.**

-The first half tax collection deadline has already passed. Any tax payments that still need to be made can be done so by mail, with the effective date of the payment that of the postmark or by utilizing the Treasurer's website

-It is highly encouraged that all documents (deeds, affidavits, etc.) that relate to real estate transactions be done through the mail.

-There will be a drop box between the two sets of doors on the 5<sup>th</sup> St. side of the building for all documents that need to be delivered to all offices within the courthouse (auto titles, deeds, etc.). If any of these documents/filings require a payment, **do not leave cash**, only checks or money orders should be attached. Please place all documents in a sealed envelope and write the name of the office the documents to which the documents are to be sent. This box will be checked multiple times each day, and items distributed to the appropriate office.

-Payins from county departments that only involve checks are requested to be placed into the drop box. If cash is involved in the payin, then an appointment needs to be made with the auditor to come into the office to process the payin.

-Please see the attached court order informing of court access.

**Consistent with an opinion of the Ohio Attorney General, the County Commissioner meetings will be live streamed on the Commissioner Facebook page, but will not be physically open to the public from March 18, 2020, until otherwise notified.** The only people physically allowed in the meetings will be the county commissioners, county administrator, commission administrative assistant, the operator of the livestream equipment, and any other elected official, or department head that absolutely must be present in the meeting. It is encouraged that all elected officials and department heads communicate in written format anything that needs to be brought to the commissioners for action. **Please check the commissioner website ([www.lawrencecounty.org](http://www.lawrencecounty.org)) and the commissioner Facebook page for a schedule of upcoming meetings.**

### **County Jail – 115 So 5<sup>th</sup> St., Ironton**

**This office is open only for necessary law enforcement activity.**

-Employees are continuing to work and provide services.

-Visitation to the jail has been suspended until further notice.

-The Sheriff has implemented safe practices to limit contact.

### **County Engineer's Office 3001 So 6<sup>th</sup> St., Ironton**

**This office is closed to the public, except for scheduled appointments.**

-Employees are continuing to work and will use technology to every extent possible.

-Any necessary meetings need to be scheduled with social distancing in mind.

**Lawrence County Department of Job and Family Services 1100 So 7<sup>th</sup> St., Ironton  
Including Child Support Enforcement and Children's Services  
This office is closed to the public, except for scheduled appointments.**

- Employees are continuing to work and will use technology to every extent possible.
- Any necessary meetings need to be scheduled with social distancing in mind, please use either phone or internet services if at all possible. **Please see the Department of Job and Family Services operational plan attached to this announcement.**

**Union Rome Sewer Office 32 Private Drive 11100, Chesapeake  
This office is closed to the public, except for scheduled appointments.**

- Employees are continuing to work and will use technology to every extent possible.
- Payments can be made via mail or on the sewer website ([www.unionromesewer.com](http://www.unionromesewer.com))
- Only essential sewer repairs will be performed during this time.
- Any necessary meetings need to be scheduled with social distancing in mind.

**Lawrence County Animal Shelter 1302 Adams Lane, Ironton  
This office is closed to the public, except for scheduled appointments.**

- Employees are continuing to work and will use technology to every extent possible.
- Any necessary meetings need to be scheduled with social distancing in mind.

**Lawrence County Juvenile Center 4676 St Rt 93, Ironton  
This office is closed to the public, except for scheduled appointments.**

- Employees are continuing to work and will use technology to every extent possible.
- Any necessary meetings need to be scheduled with social distancing in mind.

**Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District 5459 St Rt 217 Willow Wood  
This office is closed to the public, except for scheduled appointments.**

- Employees are continuing to work and will use technology to every extent possible.
- Any necessary meetings need to be scheduled with social distancing in mind.

**Lawrence County Municipal Court 10916 Co Rd 1, Chesapeake  
This office has limited access, please contact the court directly.**

- Employees are continuing to work and will use technology to every extent possible.
- Any necessary meetings need to be scheduled with social distancing in mind.

**Lawrence County Health Department 2122 So 8<sup>th</sup> St., Ironton**

**This office is closed to the public, except for scheduled appointments.**

- The health department will only be operating Mission Essential Functions.
- Employees are continuing to work and will use technology to every extent possible.
- Any necessary meetings need to be scheduled with social distancing in mind.
- Patients will be asked not to come to health department if they are sick.
- We're asking funeral directors to drop off or mail request for death certificates.
- Please call initially to request birth records to verify accuracy. Staff will advise when to come into the office to complete paperwork.
- Please call health department prior to appointments.
- Staff will be at front entrance to take temperatures of those seeking services.

**Lawrence County 911/EMA Center 515 Park Ave, Ironton**

**This office is closed to the public, except for scheduled appointments.**

- Employees are continuing to work and will use technology to every extent possible.
- Any necessary meetings need to be scheduled with social distancing in mind.

**Lawrence County Joint Response Operation Center 715 Lane St, Coal Grove  
Including EMS, Coroner, Various Sheriff Departments**

**This office is closed to the public, except for scheduled appointments.**

- Employees are continuing to work and will use technology to every extent possible.
- EMS service will continue, however it is requested that anyone who asks for EMS assistance, please identify if the person needing assistance has cold/flu like symptoms.
- Any necessary meetings need to be scheduled with social distancing in mind.

**Lawrence County Board of Developmental Disabilities 604 Carlton Davidson Lane,  
Coal Grove**

**This office is closed to the public**

- Please see the Board of Developmental Disabilities memo attached

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
GENERAL DIVISION  
LAWRENCE COUNTY, OHIO

TEMPORARY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO  
COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

JOURNAL ENTRY

JUDG. \_\_\_\_\_, PG. \_\_\_\_\_

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On March 9, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D “Declaring a State of Emergency” in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis. In accordance with the proactive precautionary measures contemplated in the Executive Order, and the anticipated procedures that will be developed by various state and local governmental agencies to promote public health, safety and wellbeing, the General Division of the Court of Common Pleas has developed a continuum of flexible responses to ensure the business of Court will continue while, at the same time, restricting the public’s need to physically access the Court.

Therefore, it is HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Rules of Practice for the General Division may be temporarily modified, within Constitutional limits, to allow the Court to operate effectively during the State of Emergency;
2. The use of telephone conferencing and, if available, video conferencing is authorized in all actions and proceedings. If video conferencing is not available in cases where a criminal defendant’s presence in Court is required, then the defendant and counsel shall appear in person;
3. Any matter that the Court determines to be time sensitive shall proceed as scheduled unless modified by the Court in accordance with paragraph 9 of this Order;

4. The Court will continue to accept petitions for civil stalking protection orders and temporary restraining orders;
5. All civil jury trials are suspended until April 6, 2020;
6. All criminal jury trials that are not time sensitive are suspended until April 6, 2020;
7. All Court appearances for the Nexus Recovery Docket are suspended until April 9, 2020;
8. All in-Court appearances shall be limited to counsel, Court staff, parties to the case, necessary witnesses and certain members of the media. Members of the public who do not fall into one of the categories set forth herein shall not be permitted to congregate in the second and third floor lobby areas of the Courthouse Annex, and may be prohibited from entering the Courthouse under the directive of the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners;
9. The public health emergency shall be considered to be a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary by assigned Judges on a case-by-case basis; and
10. The Court shall have lawful authority, within constitutional limits, to do and direct to be done all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice for the duration of the declared public health emergency.

Case-by-case exceptions to the mandates set forth herein may be ordered at the discretion of the Court. Further, nothing in this Order shall affect the Court's consideration of civil or criminal motions that can be resolved without oral argument.

The General Division of the Lawrence County Court of Common Pleas shall remain open until further notice from the Court, but persons who have business before the Court are encouraged to utilize telephone, facsimile and email communication when possible in order to promote social distancing and limited physical contact.

It is SO ORDERED.

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ANDREW P. BALLARD, JUDGE

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CHRISTEN N. FINLEY, JUDGE



Department of Job & Family Services

1100 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street • P.O. Box 539 • Ironton, OH 45638 • (740) 532-3324 • Fax (740) 532-9490

## **Provision of Services During Pandemic Outbreak or Emergency Operation Plan**

### **1. Procedure Summary**

In conjunction with the Lawrence County Ohio Job and Family Services Board of Commissioners and with the assistance of the local county Emergency Management Agency, the Lawrence County Ohio Job and Family Services (LCDJFS) Emergency Operational Plan is provided below. All plans herein listed are contingent upon the operational plan as developed and directed by the Lawrence County Ohio Job and Family Services Board of Commissioners for services and subject to their discretion. It is the intent of the Lawrence County Ohio Job and Family Services Board of Commissioners and LCDJFS that every precaution be taken to provide a safe working environment for all employees.

In attempting to prepare guidelines for the possibility of a pandemic flu, or any other emergency in which Agency staff members may be unable to come to the worksite, we have identified key areas of consideration. This plan will serve as our template for emergency services should the need arise.

### **2. Procedure Steps**

In all phases of the pandemic outbreak, LCDJFS will make every effort to remain responsive to the county it serves, while attempting to maintain hygiene procedures to prevent the spread of an outbreak within the Agency. The staff will be advised of any confirmed cases within the Agency or of any updates regarding possible outbreak via email or Agency phone tree.

All methods of local media will be utilized to alert the public regarding the stage of emergency plan designation and inform if the offices are open or closed to the public. This will be done by the Director or designated designee. The incoming telephone system will also alert the public regarding the level of service provided at the respective time period.

All staff members available to report to work will be utilized on an emergency basis and will be utilized to provide the best available services to the citizens of Lawrence County.





Department of Job & Family Services

1100 South 7<sup>th</sup> Street • P.O. Box 539 • Ironton, OH 45638 • (740) 532-3324 • Fax (740) 532-9490

## Steps

### **If possible, personal hygiene policies will include:**

Cleaning and precautionary materials needed:

- Alcohol and/or chlorine cleaning products,
- Latex (and a small amount of non-latex) sterile gloves,
- Masks, and
- Waterless hand sanitizer.

### **Hand hygiene policies will include:**

- Stressing to the staff the need to effectively wash hands on a regular basis,
- Hand sanitizer, if possible, should be used after every interview, and
- Notices will be posted reminding of the importance of proper hand hygiene practices.

### **Cough etiquette policies will include:**

- Covering the mouth by all staff members.
- Filtering sneeze utilizing a facial tissue and dispose of tissue immediately.
- Keep hands away from all mucous membranes, i.e.. mouth, and nose.
- Develop hand-washing practice particularly after coughing, sneezing, and/or using a tissue.

### **Cleaning precautions:**

- Staff will be provided antibacterial cleaning products to reduce environmental germs by utilizing alcohol and/or chlorine, if possible.
- Telephone sets, counter and desks areas, common doorknobs, railings, control access keypads, washbasins, and toilets will be cleaned with a suitable anti-bacterial cleaning solution, if possible.
- Staff will be cautioned not to use another employee's telephone or specific desk area (personal computer, calculator, general desk equipment) and when sharing respective areas, that they clean the respective machinery (copiers, shredders).
- Staff will be instructed to dispose of all eating utensils, tissues, etc. in a designated waste receptacle to avoid further contamination.

### **Avoid gathering of large number of staff members:**

- Staff will be advised to attempt to avoid gatherings in groups during this time period.



**Department of Job & Family Services**

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- Staff will be advised to communicate to other staff members via telephone or email whenever possible to avoid chances of further contamination.
- E-mail communication will take place whenever possible in place of staff meetings. Staff will be advised not to share cups, dishes, etc.
- Staff members will be advised to avoid social gatherings within the office and be encouraged to utilize telephone or e-mailing of messages.

**Risk control measures:**

All measures available will be taken as follows:

- All staff members with influenza/COVID-19 symptoms will be restricted from the workplace until determined influenza/COVID-19 free (as determined by ODH, CDC, or health provider), and document all employees they have been contact with.
- Practicing and reminding of personal hygiene and workplace cleaning habits.
- Increase and recommend social distancing.
- Manage staff that becomes ill at work.
- Restrict travel whenever possible.
- Any employee reporting or observed as having symptoms will be advised to go home and stay at home. The employee will be advised to contact their physician. Arrangements will be made for clean-up of employee's workstation.

Entry into the Agency by the general public restriction will take place should it be necessary. Signs will be posted to advise anyone entering the building NOT to enter if they are experiencing influenza/COVID-19 symptoms. All precautions will be taken to ensure that staff members and the public maintain a restricted distance if at all possible.

**Travel:**

All Agency travel will be cancelled except for emergency meetings and Children Services and Adult Protective Services referrals of abuse/neglect and ongoing case management/monitoring as prioritized. Administration may travel between sites on an as needed basis. All travel shall be at the Director, or designee, discretion.

**LCDJFS Pandemic Operation**

**Plan B: Offices Closed to the Public**

The Director, or designee, will:

- A. Follow its own procedure for emergency notifications (local radio stations, etc.).
- B. LCDJFS will follow its Service-Level Assignment with ODJFS.



**Department of Job & Family Services**

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- C. The Director, or designee, should call the OIS Service Desk at (800) 686-1580, option 2, to inform state staff of the problem. If the problem necessitates a closure, the county should indicate the length of time the Agency is expected to be closed, which offices or locations are involved, and the county identification number. The OIS Service Desk will notify the appropriate OIS work units of the problem. It will create a trouble ticket, assign it to the appropriate area, and enter the problem in incident log.
- D. If the county Agency must close, OIS will inform the ODJFS Chief Inspector's Office and the ODJFS Office of Communications to post a general closure notice to [www.jfs.ohio.gov](http://www.jfs.ohio.gov) instructing customers to call before visiting the Agency office. This message will remain posted for one day unless the Agency informs OIS that the closure will continue longer.
- E. OIS will follow established escalation procedures to resolve the problem. Once the issue is resolved, OIS will complete incident documentation.

**Incoming Calls:**

Agency will update telephone greeting to notify the Agency is closed to the public due to the influenza/COVID-19 outbreak. Services will be handled by telephone as available.

The CPS/APS units will attempt to maintain normal levels or response to the community and to meet its mandates regarding referrals of abuse and neglect. However, in the event that it is not possible, incoming referrals will be screened and prioritized based on the information presented. Available staff will be dispatched to handle emergency situations, as determined by Administration.

**Deposits:**

All payments will be deposited in a timely manner contingent upon the operations of the County Auditor and the County Treasurer offices. Should their offices be closed, deposits will be securely stored in the Agency's safe.

**Appointments/Interviews:**

No interviews will be held within the Agency at this time. Any interview or appointments that can transpire via telephone will be scheduled. Other business will be conducted by mail.

**Use of the visitation rooms will be suspended:**

Whenever possible, visits will be conducted outside of the Agency using kinship or foster homes, birth family homes, or an alternate site, as determined by Administration. Any visitation that requires Agency supervision will be suspended until further notice. All cancelled visitation will be rescheduled at the earliest convenience.



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**Notices:**

Notices will be posted in the entrance way advising that the office is not open for business to the public at this time due to influenza/COVID-19. Said notice will include telephone information number to call with any questions, and a notice that any paperwork or payments can be deposited in the appropriate drop box.

**Mail runs from post office and to postal drop:**

During this stage, mail will be picked up as usual at the local Post Office. Special care will be taken by staff handling incoming and outgoing mail, utilizing sterile gloves to prevent further risk of exposure.

**Supply drop-off:**

Agency will continue supply deliveries to ensure staff have access to needed supplies.

**Children Services-Investigations, placement of children in substitute care, and visits to children in substitute care:**

All necessary healthcare precautions will be observed. Staff will be provided with latex gloves and masks should they come into contact with a family known to have the influenza/COVID-19 virus. The substitute caregiver will be provided with all medical information including, but not limited to, the proper care of a child with the influenza/COVID-19 virus, and precautionary steps to prevent the further spread of the virus. The Agency will make every effort to maintain compliance with all Ohio Administrative Code rules regarding the visitation of children in their substitute care setting. IF staffing levels drop to a point where this is not possible, contact will be made by phone. The contact will include talking with the substitute caregiver and the foster child (when appropriate). Documentation will be kept in SACWIS and/or the case file regarding attempts made to maintain compliance with Ohio Administrative Code and information

discussed during the phone contact; notation shall be made indicating that face-to-face visitation was limited or prohibited due to the pandemic.

**Payroll:**

Payroll will be handled by Human Resources Officer and County Auditor with approval by Director or assigned designee.

**MIS:**

Each program administrator, with support from MIS Specialist, will be responsible to ensure access and password resets to appropriate state systems. Program areas will utilize their assigned Help-Desk for additional assistance. State and Agency equipment issues will still be handled by the MIS Specialist.



Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities  
604 Carlton Davidson Lane, Coal Grove, OH 45638  
740-532-7401

*Leading the Way  
Achieving Excellence  
Shaping the Future*

Early Intervention • Preschool • School Age • Service and Support Administration

March 16, 2020

Dear LCDD Service Recipients, Families/Guardians, Providers, Community Partners:

The Lawrence County Developmental Disabilities (LCDD) cares deeply about the health and safety of individuals we serve, our employees and stakeholders. We also feel compelled to do our part as a public entity to reduce exposure to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) during this state of emergency.

Therefore, to comply with Governor DeWine's directives regarding COVID-19 and guidance from the Ohio Department of DD, the LCDD will be implementing alternative service delivery solutions to help facilitate "social distancing" while continuing to serve individuals and keep the buildings clean and safe.

Effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020, and until further notice, all LCDD buildings will be closed to the public, and services to individuals and families will be provided remotely. This may include phone calls, remote meetings and visits, and other forms of electronic communication. Home visits will be suspended except in emergency situations.

However, please be assured that our Service and Support Administrators (SSAs), Help Me Grow Early Intervention staff, and Investigative Agent will continue to be available. Please be sure to continue sending new referrals as needed, and reporting Major Unusual Incidents and Unusual Incidents as always.

Additionally, our Open Door School Instructors will be communicating with students and their families and offering information about educational resources they become aware of.

All program phone numbers will be answered as usual during regular business hours, and the after-hours emergency on-call system will continue as usual.

We are taking donations for those we serve at our Board Office located at 604 Carlton Davidson Ln., Coal Grove, OH from 9:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. weekdays. Please utilize the yellow bin in front of our office door. Requested items include baby formula/food, baby wipes and diapers, non-perishable food items, paper products and cleaning supplies.

Our Early Intervention or Service and Support Administration department should be contacted if there is a need. Our agency numbers are as follows:

LCDD Board Office: 740-532-7401  
Help Me Grow Early Intervention: 740-377-2356  
Service and Support Administration: 740-532-0406  
Open Door School: 740-532-1234  
After-hours emergency: 24/7: 740-532-0406

We will be monitoring this situation closely. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or specific needs.

Sincerely,

Julie Monroe, Superintendent

# Probate-Juvenile Court

Division of  
Court of Common Pleas  
Lawrence County Court House  
IRONTON, OHIO 45638

HONORABLE PATRICIA SANDERS  
PROBATE — JUVENILE JUDGE

PROBATE COURT — 740-533-4343  
JUVENILE COURT — 740-533-4341

3/16/2020

RE: Temporary Changes Related to COVID-19

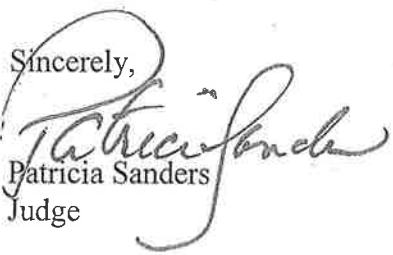
Dear Attorneys:

Until further Order of the Court, the Court will be taking temporary precautionary measures as a response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Following recommendations of the Ohio Supreme Court and Gov. Michael DeWine, the Court will be continuing all non-emergency hearings for a period of approximately thirty days. The Court will be contacting the counsel of record regarding each matter that is continued.

In an attempt to limit the number of individuals physically present at the Court House, the Court will require that all parties represented by counsel not personally attend a scheduled pre-trial or non-adjudicatory hearing, as said hearings can be conducted by their counsel. Additionally the Court recommends that all attorneys conduct any scheduled pretrial and/or non-adjudicatory hearing by phone when possible.

While the temporary changes may cause some inconvenience, the changes are necessary to protect the attorneys, parties, court staff, and the general public. I thank the attorneys in advance for their cooperation in this effort.

Sincerely,

  
Patricia Sanders  
Judge

2291  
B-197

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
PROBATE-JUVENILE DIVISION  
LAWRENCE COUNTY, OHIO

FILED  
JUVENILE COURT  
2020 MAR 17 AM 8:41  
LAWRENCE CO., OHIO  
PATRICIA SANDERS, JUDGE

**TEMPORARY ORDER FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING  
AND  
RESTRICTING VISITORS AT THE LAWRENCE COUNTY JUVENILE CENTER**

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death. The virus is spread between individuals who are in close contact with each other (within about six feet). It may be possible that individuals can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or eyes. The health and safety of the youth at the Lawrence County Juvenile Center (LCJC), as well as that of the employees, is a top priority. Therefore, the following ORDERS shall be effective immediately:


1. Social Distancing: Droplets of virus are spread when someone coughs, sneezes, or even just exhales. Droplets are most likely to travel three feet but can travel up to six feet. We will immediately institute a policy of social distancing.
2. Personal Hygiene: Frequent handwashing, sanitizing, and disinfecting will begin immediately. LCJC personnel will immediately begin to circulate during the day wiping doorknobs, countertops and other surfaces.
3. Access to the LCJC facility will be restricted to only those personnel who are absolutely necessary for the operation of the facility. People who are "absolutely necessary for the operations of the facility include but may not be limited to, staff, contracted and emergency healthcare providers, law enforcement, attorneys, clergy, contractors conducting critical on-

site maintenance, and government representatives and regulators and their contractors. No visitors, including youth family members, shall be admitted into the facility.

4. Passes and home visits by youth at the facility are suspended until further order.

5. This Order shall take effect immediately and remain in full force and effect until the State of Emergency declared by the Governor no longer exists, or otherwise modified by Court Order.

This situation is extremely fluid and rapidly evolving. These policies are subject to change at any time.



PATRICIA SANDERS, JUDGE



Q291  
Pg. 196

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
PROBATE-JUVENILE DIVISION  
LAWRENCE COUNTY, OHIO**

FILED  
JUVENILE COURT

2020 MAR 16 AM 11:05

LAWRENCE CO., OHIO  
PATRICIA SANDERS, JUDGE

**TEMPORARY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19  
(CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

The Probate-Juvenile Division of the Lawrence County Court of Common Pleas makes the following Findings of Fact:

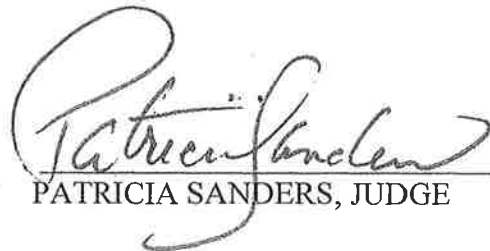
1. On March 9, 2020 Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D “Declaring a State of Emergency” in response to the growing COVID-19 public health crisis.
2. On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 to be a global “pandemic” requiring “urgent and aggressive action” to control the spread of the virus.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Probate-Juvenile Division of the Lawrence County Court of Common Pleas has developed a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis escalates. The continuum of responses is intended to protect public health, to maintain essential court functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

**THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

1. The Probate-Juvenile Division Local Rules of Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.

2. The Probate-Juvenile Division security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.
3. The Probate-Juvenile Division Employee Handbook provisions may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential court operations and functions.
4. The Probate-Juvenile Division authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings.
5. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary on a case-by-case basis.
6. The Court will have the lawful authority, within constitutional limits, to do and direct to be done all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice for the duration of the declared public health emergency.

  
PATRICIA SANDERS, JUDGE

FILED

LAWRENCE COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT  
CHESAPEAKE, OHIO

2020 MAR 16 AM 9:14

LAWRENCE COUNTY  
MUNICIPAL COURT  
KATHY BLEDSOE, CLERK

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Lawrence County Municipal Court is making adjustments to the court schedule.

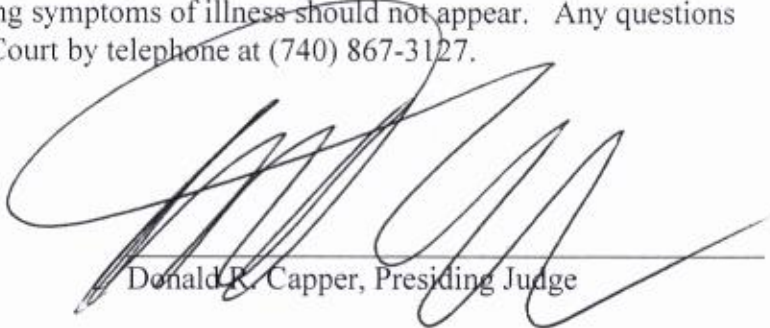
March 24<sup>th</sup> traffic court is continued to a date to be determined. Any person who has a summons will not be required to attend and there will be no enforcement action submitted to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles due to non-appearance or failure to pay.

All civil hearings and trials are continued indefinitely. The court will not set hearings on small claims cases or forcible entries and detainers until further notice.

All criminal trials that are not time sensitive will be continued. Persons who have attorneys representing them should consult with their attorney about when they should appear in court.

All persons having motions or pre-trials should consult with their attorney by telephone about their case.

The Clerk's office will remain open but encourages everyone to make payments via mail or online at [www.lawcomunicourt.com](http://www.lawcomunicourt.com). Only persons having business before the court should appear in person. Anyone exhibiting symptoms of illness should not appear. Any questions should be directed to the Clerk of Court by telephone at (740) 867-3127.



Donald R. Capper, Presiding Judge