

FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL COURT
WARREN COUNTY, OHIO

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FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL COURT
FRANKLIN, OHIO

IN RE: : **Ronald W. Ruppert, Judge**
TEMPORARY ORDERS OF PRACTICE : **Date: 3/17/20**
AND PROCEDURE FOR :
FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL COURT :

This matter having come before the Court, the Court makes the following findings and ORDERS:

On Friday, March 13th, 2020, Franklin Municipal Court adopted temporary procedures to protect individuals at Franklin Municipal Court from the spread of COVID-19. Specifically, the Court implemented individual screening for symptoms of COVID-19, separation of individuals and measures to protect Court personnel and clerk's office personnel in dealing with the general public.

The Court finds that a State of Emergency has been declared by Governor Mike DeWine regarding the public health crisis due to COVID-19. Governor DeWine has issued additional orders as preventative measures in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus. The Court has considered the orders of Governor DeWine, information provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Health, among other sources. The Court has also benefited from the advice of healthcare professionals.

On March 16, 2020, the Court met with the Franklin Municipal Court Clerk, City of Franklin Prosecutor, Magistrate for Franklin Municipal Court, Chief Bailiff and the Chief Probation Officer to discuss further options and plans to allow Franklin Municipal Court to continue with its essential functions while providing for the safety of all individuals.

The Court finds that the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio has indicated that individual courts should formulate plans to continue to perform the essential functions of the Court while taking measures to protect against the spread of COVID-19.

The Court finds it necessary to issue the Temporary Orders set forth herein. These Orders may be amended as information and knowledge continues to develop concerning COVID-19.

Based upon the findings of the Court, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020, as follows:

1. During Traffic and Criminal Court docket, Tuesdays and Fridays, only defendants, victims, law enforcement officers and attorneys will be permitted to enter the court building and the courtroom.
2. The number of defendants permitted to enter the courtroom during Traffic and Criminal docket will be restricted to ten (10) at a time.
3. During Civil and Small Claims Court days, only parties, their attorneys and witnesses will be permitted to enter the court building and the courtroom.
4. The number of attorneys, parties and witnesses permitted to enter the courtroom will be restricted to ten (10) at a time for Civil and Small Claims Court proceedings.
5. All individuals entering the court building will be subject to healthcare screening to include the taking of body temperature by a non-invasive means.
6. The following individuals shall not be permitted to enter the building or courtroom:
 - (a) Any individual with symptoms including, but not limited to, fever, respiratory symptoms and/or a sore throat,
 - (b) Any individual who has traveled out of the country within the last sixty (60) days or an individual who has had a household member travel out of the country in the last sixty (60) days.
 - (c) Any person who has been in contact with an individual who is being monitored or has tested positive for the COVID-19 Virus.
7. Any party who is not permitted to enter the courtroom will have their case continued.
8. All individuals shall maintain appropriate social distancing of approximately six (6) feet, whenever possible.
9. Due to the public health emergency, the Court will entertain motions to continue any matter for at least thirty (30) days.
10. The Court will review matters on a case by case basis and may continue initial appearances, arraignments, pretrials, motion hearings, dispositions, sentencing or trials for a minimum of thirty (30) days.
11. Pretrial conferences in criminal and civil matters shall be conducted by phone whenever possible. Upon request of any party, a pretrial may be continued in progress for a minimum of thirty (30) days to permit an in-person pretrial conference.
12. Any person represented by a public defender/court appointed attorney shall consult with said attorney by telephone whenever possible. Any person represented by a public defender/court appointed attorney shall be notified of any continued hearing.
13. Attorneys shall remain in the courtroom unless otherwise requested by the Prosecutor or Court personnel.
14. All law enforcement officers shall enter the courtroom through security, be subject to screening and shall remain in the courtroom until needed by the prosecutor.
15. The Chief Probation Officer shall adopt rules and implement measures in accordance with the Court's Temporary Orders to limit, whenever possible, face to face contact with individuals who have been placed on probation pursuant to a community control sanction.
16. The Court may continue jury trials, as needed. The Court notes that as of the date of this order, there is no jury trial scheduled within the next thirty (30) days.
17. The Court's Local Rules are hereby temporarily amended to permit the Court to adopt guidelines in response to the public health emergency.

18. The Court may amend its security policies from time to time in order to protect public health while continuing to maintain essential court functions, as directed by the Supreme Court of Ohio.
19. The Court specifically finds the public health emergency to be a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary by the Court as determined on a case by case basis.
20. Judicial personnel, clerk of court's personnel, attorneys, law enforcement officers, witnesses, and parties who exhibit signs of illness shall notify the Court, by telephone or email.



RONALD W. RUPPERT, JUDGE
FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL COURT

NOTICE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COURT'S TEMPORARY ORDER OF MARCH 17, 2020, ALL INDIVIDUALS ENTERING OR REMAINING IN THE COURT BUILDING ARE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING ORDERS:

- 1. All individuals entering the court building shall be subject to healthcare screening including the taking of bodily temperature by non-invasive means.**
- 2. No individual, including but not limited to, attorneys, defendants, victims, witnesses, parties, law enforcement officers, court or clerk's office staff shall be permitted to enter or remain in the court building or court room if the individual exhibits symptoms, including but not limited to, a fever, respiratory symptoms and/or sore throat.**
- 3. Any individual who has traveled out of the country within the last sixty (60) days or an individual who has had a household member travel out of the country in the last sixty (60) days.**
- 4. Any person who has been in contact with an individual who is being monitored or has tested positive for COVID-19 shall not be permitted in the court building.**
- 5. All individuals shall maintain appropriate social distancing of approximately six (6) feet, whenever possible.**
- 6. Any party who is not permitted to enter the Court shall have their case continued.**