

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO  
JUVENILE DIVISION

IN RE:

:

Case No. 2020-MISC-00005

Entry & Order for Certain Restrictions  
to the Use, Occupancy, and Traffic  
for the Juvenile Court/Detention Facility  
located at 411 South Diamond Street,  
Mansfield, Ohio



TEMPORARY ORDER

This matter is before the Court on the Temporary Order in response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Public Health Crisis.

This Temporary Order is effective March 18, 2020.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1) Unless otherwise stated specifically herein, the Richland County Juvenile Court/Detention Facility (hereafter Juvenile Court) is OPEN WITH RESTRICTIONS (as outlined below).

2) EMPLOYEE ENTRANCE/ACTIVITIES. All employees in the non-secured area of the building shall enter the building via the clerking entrance (do not use the main entrance). CASA employees shall enter through the CASA entrance or the clerking entrance, and are to be seated in the courtroom hallway, rather than the lobby. All employees are asked to do a self-assessment of the COVID-19 virus questions (below), and to report any affirmative responses they have to these questions to their supervisor. Juvenile Detention staff shall enter the building through the sally port area.

Stay within your work areas as much as possible, and avoid the other areas to prevent further exposure.

3) CONDUCT WITHIN THE JUVENILE COURT BUILDING. The Courtrooms are OPEN WITH RESTRICTIONS. Only attorneys, parents, custodians, parties, victims, and witnesses (and limited media if requested) will be permitted into the Juvenile Court for scheduled proceedings. All visitors will be given a health screening (see below) regarding the COVID-19 virus. All individuals entering the Juvenile Court shall be subject to the following:

- a) No individual, including but not limited to staff, county employees, attorneys, litigants, or members of the public, shall enter or remain in the Juvenile Court if ANY of the following apply:

- He or she has a fever;
  - He or she exhibits all three of the following symptoms: 1) respiratory symptoms (chronic cough), 2) sore throat, and 3) shortness of breath.
  - He or she has traveled out of the country within the last 14 days;
  - He or she has been in contact with a person who is under investigation or has tested positive for the Coronavirus.
- b) All persons entering the Juvenile Court are subject to health care screening or non-invasive testing (the taking of body temperature using a temporal infrared thermometer), and exclusion from admission based upon the results of such screening or testing. Continuance requests on the basis of such an exclusion will be liberally granted by the Court.
- c) All individuals shall maintain appropriate social distancing of 6-8 feet where possible.
- d) To the extent possible, interaction between individuals and court staff shall be done electronically: by phone, email, text, skype, etc.
- e) While individuals are used to a level of courthouse decorum that encourages close contact to whisper, etc., so as not to disturb courtroom proceedings, this decorum is secondary to maintaining appropriate social distancing.
- f) The following areas are CLOSED TO NON-JUDICIAL STAFF: Court staff offices (with the exception of informal hearings), Detention. All business with the Juvenile Clerk's office will be conducted through the clerk's window. Contact with Probation offices, probationers, and CASA staff shall be by phone or other electronic communication. Probation Rules will be administered at court when a youth is placed on community control/probation.

4) ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS. Adjudicatory hearings shall proceed as usual, unless other arrangements are requested and ordered.

5) PRETRIAL HEARINGS. If requested, pretrial hearings will be conducted via telephone. If the pretrial cannot be conducted by telephone or in person, the pretrial will be rescheduled, subject to the jurist's sole discretion. ALL OTHER NON-EMERGENCY HEARINGS MAY BE RESCHEDULED AT THE JURIST'S DISCRETION.

6) REVIEW HEARINGS. Unless otherwise requested by a party, in lieu of scheduled review hearings, the parties through counsel shall provide written updates to the Court.

7) FELONY/ACTS OF VIOLENCE CASES. Felony cases and those cases involving



acts of violence against persons will be handled as usual, subject to all health-related mandates issued herein, and subject to the request of counsel or youth otherwise. Any emergency matter will likewise continue to be scheduled and heard in the usual manner, subject to the above consideration. Truancy and traffic cases will typically be continued to a later date. Traffic cases that are heard will be scheduled so as to minimize the number of people at the Court. During all times, Court bailiffs shall ensure proper social distancing in the various parts of the lobby and the courtroom. Dependency and non-violent misdemeanor cases will be rescheduled so that approximately ½ (or less, if necessary) of the usual docket is before the Court at any one time. The Magistrates will determine what cases should proceed and what cases are to be continued, depending on case time limits and the need to minimize the number of people present at the Court. Court Magistrates and Probation Officers will work from home to the extent possible. Home and office visits and community service are suspended until further notice. Informal conferences as a possible prelude to formal filing will be limited to those cases involving acts of violence or imminent risk to a youth or the community.

8) EMERGENCY HEARINGS. All emergency hearings will be held pursuant to the Court's current policy and will not be changed due to these temporary orders.

9) JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER. All in-person visitation for the Juvenile Detention Center will cease. Detainees will be given increased telephone/facetime contact in compensation.

10) This Temporary Order shall be posted conspicuously throughout the Juvenile Court and on the Court's website.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



W. Steve McKinley, Judge