

**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF EATON
PREBLE COUNTY, OHIO**

FILED
APR - 1 2020
MUNICIPAL COURT
OF EATON, OHIO

**In Response to the
Coronavirus Pandemic**

**EMERGENCY ORDER
Journal Entry**

The Court and the general public are aware that locations such as waiting rooms, dining halls and restaurants where large numbers of people congregate, potentially become areas where the Covid-19 Coronavirus can spread more rapidly.

In an effort to ensure the safety of the public, the parties and witnesses to court proceedings and all court personnel, the Court's traditional weekly schedule may from time to time be modified sua sponte (i.e. on the Court's own motion) to allow for the smooth, but safer continuation of the administration of justice.

1. Specifically, in Civil Cases...

Where in the past, in the interest of efficiency and judicial economy, certain types of cases, to-wit: small claims, evictions, and the like, would have seen each category assigned to a specific day of the week at a specific time of day. This kept the Court's docket moving, but it also, occasionally resulted in large (more than 10) numbers of people waiting for their case to be called. This is no longer acceptable.

To avoid this situation, the Court may move cases to future dates on different times of the day.

It is the Court's intention to maintain an orderly administration of justice and at the same time adhere to sound, medically approved principles designed to avoid unnecessary crowding during the current pandemic, and allowing for "social distancing" to the full extent.

2. Specifically in Traffic and Criminal Cases...

Until further notice, and only where practical, Pre-Trial Conferences may be conducted by telephone with the prosecutor present in the Courthouse and Defense counsel or the pro se Defendant may call in at a prescribed time. Thereafter, the prosecutor will inform the Court, in writing, in what manner each case will be going forward.

Cases not resolved at Pre-Trial will be set for further Pre-Trial or Trial to the Court as the case may be. Jury Trials will be set by the Court on a case by case basis.

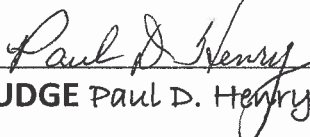
Under this new system, if a case is not resolved after two (2) Pre-Trials it shall be set for Trial.

Please bear with the Court as cases may be rescheduled sua sponte, and the time lines in certain types of cases may also be affected.

For the moment we are all in this period of difficulty together with the same goals in mind: Justice Served and Health Preserved.

Thank you for your understanding and profoundly good citizenship.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 4-1-2020



JUDGE Paul D. Henry



MAGISTRATE James W. Thomas

cc:

Posted on door to courthouse
Posted in courthouse lobby
Posted to EMC website
Members, Preble County Bar Association

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