

### **Public release related to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) public health issue**

The following is in effect from March 16, 2020 through April 3, 2020 or until otherwise ordered or modified.

The General Division of the Butler County Common Pleas Court continues to monitor the most current statements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Ohio Department of Health, and the Butler County Health Commissioner regarding Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The General Division of the Common Pleas Court is following recommended guidelines from public health officials. At this time, there are no changes in court operations, except as follows.

Please note that if you have recently travelled from an area with widespread or ongoing community spread of COVID-19, reside or have had close contact with someone who has travelled to one of these areas within the last 14 days, have been asked to self-quarantine by any hospital or health agency, or have been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, you must take the following action:

- If you are a criminal defendant who is scheduled to appear in court for your criminal case, then you are still required to appear in person, unless the judge assigned to your case has excused your appearance.
- If you are scheduled to appear before the Court in the near future, other than as provided in the previous bullet point, contact your attorney for further instruction. If necessary, the Court will make reasonable accommodations to reschedule appearances.
- If you are scheduled to visit the courthouse in the near future for jury duty, meeting with Pretrial Services & Probation staff, or meeting with any other office in this building, contact the office you are visiting to determine if you are required to appear in person. Reasonable accommodations to reschedule or to communicate via teleconference will be considered.

If you have flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), please inform the Court Security Officers at the courthouse entrance, or inform the receptionist at the probation department reception window. You may be denied access to the courthouse or probation department and be asked to contact your healthcare provider for details on how to proceed with proper medical care. In the alternative, if you enter the building, you may be required to wear a protective mask.

These steps are being taken out of an abundance of caution to slow the spread of the virus and protect the health of courthouse staff and the community. Thank you for your cooperation.