



IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PROBATE DIVISION, ROSS COUNTY, OHIO

### EMERGENCY INTERIM ORDER

The Court finds that the Governor of the State of Ohio, Michael DeWine, has declared a State of Emergency due to the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) which prohibits and/or attempts to limit mass gatherings throughout the State of Ohio. The Court further finds that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that all employers should implement strategies to protect the workforce and the public from COVID-19 while insuring continuity of operations. The Ross County Probate and Juvenile Court shall remain open. The public may continue to utilize the Court's services while following all applicable public health guidelines. The following interim provisions/policies shall also apply until further notice:

1. All Child Support Contempt matters shall be continued for at least thirty (30) days by separate entry in each case;
2. The Ross County Archives Business Office is closed effective immediately. If you and/or your client need a document or information you may contact our Archivist, Janet Ackley at (740) 774-1179 ext. 113 or by email at [janetackley@rosscountyohio.gov](mailto:janetackley@rosscountyohio.gov);
3. All pre-trials and review hearings in Dependency, Abuse and Neglect cases shall be conducted via text messaging. The Magistrate shall initiate the pre-trial or review hearing to all counsel of record. If a more detailed communication is required the Magistrate shall initiate a conference call to all counsel of record. All parties represented by counsel shall not be required to attend the pre-trial/review hearing;
4. All other pre-trial hearings shall be conducted by telephone. The parties shall not attend the pre-trial hearing. The Judge or the Magistrate shall initiate the pre-trial by telephoning all counsel of record on the date and time set forth in the scheduling order. Parties not represented by counsel shall provide the Court with a telephone number at which that party will be available on the date and time set forth in the scheduling order;
5. Until further notice, the Court will accept motions via fax so long as the original document is filed within seven (7) days;
6. The Court intends to liberally consider motions to continue especially if all parties agree to that motion.

JUDGE 