

**IN THE SUPREME COURT PENNSYLVANIA  
MIDDLE DISTRICT**

IN RE: 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District – : No. 33-MM-2020  
Declaration of Judicial Emergency :

**THIRD EXTENDED DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY**

Pursuant to the Supreme Court's Orders dated March 16, 2020, April 1, 2020, April 28, 2020, and May 27, 2020 (Nos. 531 and 532 Judicial Administration Docket), the judicial emergency declared in the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Pennsylvania on March 16, 2020, is hereby extended to August 31, 2020. This Third Extended Declaration shall be self-effectuating, per the Supreme Court's Order of May 27<sup>th</sup>.

1. The operation of Rule of Criminal Procedure 600, relating to speedy trials, shall remain suspended in the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District until August 31, 2020.
2. All jury trials cancelled or continued due to the judicial emergency shall be rescheduled by the District Court Administrator. The District Court Administrator is further hereby directed to begin issuing juror summonses for jury selection to occur on August 3, 2020, with regular resumption of jury trial terms to begin at that time (with additional jury trial terms added per the Court's Second Extended Declaration, issued April 20, 2020). It is anticipated that both jury selection and trials will be conducted live, using protocols currently in development, to be filed as a local Administrative Order once finalized. Jury selection may occur remotely by Zoom, if needed, based on then-existing circumstances and guidance from health officials.
3. Expanded and mandatory use of Advanced Communication Technology for conducting proceedings will continue, per the prior Administrative Orders issued under the Emergency Declaration. That said, so long as Huntingdon County remains in a reopening trend under the emergency orders issued by the Governor and the Secretary of Health, the Court anticipates transitioning to a blend of live proceedings and remote proceedings in July.

The election of live versus remote will remain at the discretion of the Court, subject to petition by any party to an action.

4. The methodology for determining whether proceedings will be scheduled live versus remotely, along with specific infection control procedures for live proceedings, will be addressed in a local Administrative Order that will cover both the Court of Common Pleas and the Magisterial District Courts in the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. The final scope of that Administrative Order, and, ultimately, the ability of the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District to serve the needs of the residents of Huntingdon County safely, effectively, and appropriately, is dependent upon the provision of necessary funding, personnel, and facilities resources by the Huntingdon County Commissioners.
5. Magisterial District Court Items:
  - a. With specific regard to residential landlord-tenant matters, pursuant to the Governor's Order of May 7, 2020, as modified May 21, 2020, the commencement of eviction proceedings for residential properties (including mobile homes) is stayed until July 10, 2020, for: (i) nonpayment of money due under a lease; or (ii) because the term of a lease has ended. This stay only limits the conduct of proceedings for such actions. Such actions may be filed, and required notices delivered, before July 10<sup>th</sup>, but the effective date of any notice so delivered, and the start date for the timeline calculation of any eviction action so filed, shall be deemed to be July 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. All other actions that might be characterized as being for the dispossession of property may recommence, including landlord-tenant actions involving the breach of lease terms not involving the payment of monies or the expiration of a lease term (e.g., eviction for damage to property or engaging in illegal activities). Magisterial District Judges are encouraged to continue contacting the President Judge if they have questions regarding how the Governor's Order affects specific cases.
  - c. Constables may be reengaged to serve process and conduct all other regular Magisterial District Court business except the service of arrest

warrants. Resumption of the issuance and service of arrest warrants will be addressed at a later date, subject to guidance from corrections and health officials regarding the intake of new inmates.

6. To the extent that this Third Extended Declaration conflicts with any prior emergency declaration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, or any Administrative Order issued thereunder, this declaration shall control. The Court may issue further Administrative Orders modifying operations under the judicial emergency at any time, as necessary to respond to changing conditions and address best-practices guidance, and notice of such Administrative Orders will be provided in the same manner as for all other emergency Administrative Orders.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George N. Zanic". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "G".

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George N. Zanic, President Judge  
May 28, 2020