

BERKS COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

In Re: 23rd Judicial District : Emergency Judicial Order
: No. 20-3264
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**SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY ORDER
FOR MAY, 2020**

AND NOW, this 14th day of May, 2020, in accordance with the Orders of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania entered on March 16, 2020, April 1, 2020, and April 28, 2020, it is declared that the Berks County Courts (23rd Judicial District) remain in an ongoing judicial emergency. Therefore, it is ORDERED that all postponements and extensions as set forth in prior orders of this Court, as amended, including the Administrative Orders dated on or subsequent to March 17, 2020, are extended to at least June 1, 2020.

The Courts will continue with essential judicial services.

All jury trials are postponed until at least June 15, 2020.

Any hearing may be scheduled using alternative electronic means, and such alternate electronic means should be utilized when possible. When deemed appropriate and necessary, hearings requiring personal appearances may be scheduled at the discretion of the assigned Judge. Where parties, attorneys or witnesses are in congregate settings, social distancing shall be observed. If a party objects to a hearing by other electronic means, a motion shall be filed in advance as to the reason why alternative electronic means shall not be used. Similarly, if a party objects to a hearing requiring personal appearance, a motion shall be filed in advance as to the reason for the objection to personal appearance.

All persons entering county buildings for court business will wear a mask covering their nose and mouth at all times.

The Operation of Rule of Criminal Procedure 600 continues to be suspended within this judicial district during the pendency of this Order, subject to constitutional mandates. Nothing in this order shall affect a criminal defendant's right to a speedy trial under the United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions, albeit that the circumstances giving rise to this Order and the suspension may be relevant to the constitutional analysis.

Further extension beyond the dates set forth in this Order may be entered.

This Order shall be effective immediately.

BY THE COURT:

Handwritten signature of Thomas G. Parisi in blue ink.

Thomas G. Parisi,
President Judge

SUPREME COURT DOCKET 53 MM 2020