

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS : EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 2020-02
ON OPERATIONS OF :
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT :
COURTS WITHIN THE :
SEVENTH JUDICIAL :
DISTRICT DUE TO EXIGENT :
CIRUMSTANCES CREATED :
BY COVID-19 :

ORDER

AND NOW, this 17th day of March, 2020:

The Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has declared the existence of a disaster emergency throughout the Commonwealth to address the threat posed by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The Governor has announced on March 14, 2020, that he is expanding COVID-19 mitigation efforts to include Bucks County. An increased number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Southeastern Pennsylvania in recent days. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and State and local public health authorities have advised that precautions be taken to avoid exposure to the virus and to prevent its spread, including implementing social distancing measures such as avoiding large gatherings and refraining from non-essential travel. In light of these and other recent developments with regard to COVID-19 in Bucks County, and to protect public health, reduce the size of public gatherings, and reduce unnecessary travel within this county, while allowing the Magisterial District Courts to continue to perform their constitutional duties;

It is hereby **ORDERED** that the following precautionary measures affecting all Magisterial District Court offices of the Seventh Judicial District effective immediately.

1. Court Facilities Remain Open

All Magisterial District Court offices will continue to operate subject to the precautions and restrictions described herein.

2. Acceptance of Payments for Fines, Costs or other Fees

The Magisterial District Judge may in her or his discretion refuse to accept in-person payments of fines, costs or other case fees. In such cases, payments may be made online using a credit or debit card or by mail using check or money order.

3. Criminal Hearings

All Preliminary hearings in criminal cases shall be generally continued to a date on or after April 14, 2020.

Per Order from the President Judge, the operation of Rule 600 of Criminal Procedure shall be suspended from March 17, 2020 to April 14, 2020.

Bail decisions should also weigh heavily the current threat posed by COVID-19.

4. Posting of Bail

Bail shall be accepted by any Magisterial District Court office. Bail may be posted in cash or by any other method authorized by rule.

5. Traffic and Non-Traffic Offense Hearings

All hearings concerning Traffic and Non-Traffic offenses shall be continued to a date on or after April 14, 2020.

No Form DL-38 or any other form having the effect of suspending driving privileges, arrests warrants or bench warrants shall be issued in such cases.

6. Civil Action Hearings

All civil action hearings shall be continued to a date on or after April 14, 2020.

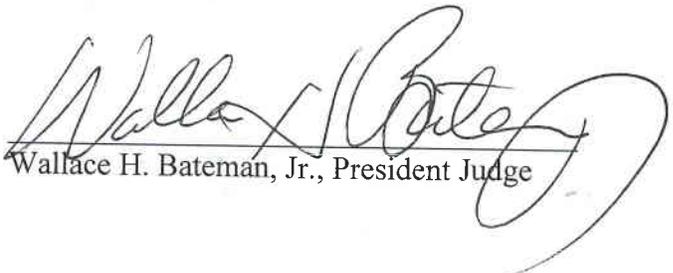
7. Landlord-Tenant (Actions for Possession of Real Property) Hearings

All Landlord Tenant action hearings shall be continued to a date on or after April 14, 2020.

Requests for Orders of Possession resulting from judgements entered in Landlord-Tenant Actions may be filed. However, any execution on an Order Possession is stayed to a date on or after April 14, 2020, effective immediately.

This Order will expire on April 14, 2020 unless extended by further Court Order.

BY THE COURT:


Wallace H. Bateman, Jr., President Judge