



Chambers of
Judge John Trebets

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MENTOR MUNICIPAL COURT
LAKE COUNTY, OHIO
8500 CIVIC CENTER BLVD.
MENTOR, OHIO 44060

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
3-16-2020

The Mentor Municipal Court prioritizes the health and safety of its staff and the community in its commitment to the Administration of Justice. The Court will continue to conduct its daily operations and use technology whenever practicable to limit the number of individuals entering the Courthouse. The Court encourages non-essential visitors to remain outside. The Court continues to accept ticket waivers via the website and over the phone. The Court has issued the attached Administrative Orders in response to COVID-19.

MENTOR MUNICIPAL COURT
LAKE COUNTY, OHIO

IN RE: ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19
PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

On March 9, 2020, the Governor of the State of Ohio signed Executive Order 2020 - 01D declaring a state of emergency in Ohio to protect the well-being of Ohioans from the dangerous effects of COVID-19. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 to be a global "pandemic" requiring "urgent and aggressive action" to control the spread of the virus.

Wherefore, to protect public health, to maintain essential Court functions, and to continue and protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court, the following **IS HEREBY ORDERED**:

1. Local Rules of Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the Public Health emergency.
2. Court Security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect Public Health while maintaining essential Court functions.
3. Employee handbook provisions may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential Court operations and functions.
4. Use of audio-visual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings is authorized.
5. The Public Health emergency may be a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary on a case-by-case basis.
6. The Court will have the lawful authority, within Constitutional limits, to do and direct all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient Administration of Justice for the duration of the declared Public Health Emergency.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



JUDGE JOHN TREBETS

MENTOR MUNICIPAL COURT
LAKE COUNTY, OHIO

IN RE: ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19
PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Local Rules of Court are modified as follows, effective immediately.

Misdemeanor Criminal /Traffic Cases:

All discovery shall be exchanged electronically between Prosecutor and Defense Counsel.

All criminal pre-trials shall be conducted via telephone between the parties, either prior to pre-trial or at the scheduled date/time of pre-trial.

Traffic pre-trials with pro-se Defendants shall proceed as scheduled in the Courthouse. All traffic pre-trials where Defendant is represented by Counsel shall be conducted via telephone between the parties.

The Court shall be notified in writing by the Prosecutor of the outcome of the pre-trial within 24 hours of the scheduled hearing. Upon completion of the scheduled pre-trial, the matter will be set for a change of plea hearing or bench trial, based on notification from the Prosecutor.

Prosecutors, counsel and Defendants shall report to Court as scheduled for all scheduled final pre-trials, bench trials and change of plea hearings.

Felony Preliminary Hearings:

All offers on felony cases shall be made in writing, prior to the scheduled preliminary hearing. If an offer is accepted, the Court shall be notified of the hearing.

Pleas:

Defendant and Counsel shall report to Court for change of plea hearing.

Waivers:

Defendant and counsel shall report to Court for hearing.

Evidentiary Preliminary Hearing:

If Defendant is incarcerated, Defendant shall be transported to Court for hearing. If Defendant is out on bond, Defendant and Counsel shall report to Court for hearing.

Civil:

Until May 1, 2020, or further modification of this order, all civil pre-trials shall be conducted via telephone between the parties. The Court shall issue all pre-trial orders in writing.

All trials, garnishment hearings, objections and bank attachments shall proceed in the Courthouse as scheduled.

All small claims hearings shall proceed in the Courthouse as scheduled.

Forcible Entry & Detainer:

All hearings shall proceed in the Courthouse as scheduled.

Prosecutor Lisa Klammer (Mentor) can be reached at 440-974-5752 or via email at: Klammer@cityofmentor.com

Prosecutor Joseph Gurley (Mentor on the Lake) can be reached at 440-354-3800.

IT SO ORDERED.



JUDGE JOHN TREBETS