

HANCOCK COUNTY, OHIO  
FILED

2021 JUN -2 PM 3:33

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
GENERAL, CRIMINAL AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISIONS  
HANCOCK COUNTY, OHIO**

**In re: Temporary Orders for the Docket  
of Judge Jonathan P. Starn Necessitated  
By the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Public  
Health Emergency and State of  
Emergency in the Unites States and  
State of Ohio – EFFECTIVE JUNE 2, 2021**

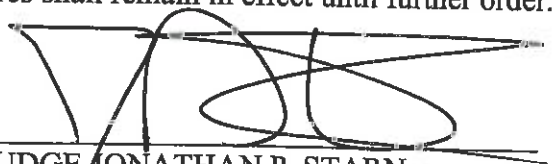
**June 2, 2021**

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The undersigned Judge Jonathan P. Starn of the Hancock County Court of Common Pleas, General, Criminal and Domestic Relations Divisions (Hancock County Common Pleas Court), will continue to develop flexible responses to this public health emergency. These responses are intended to protect health, to maintain essential court functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

**THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:**

1. The attached Temporary Policies and Procedures shall become effective June 2, 2021 and shall apply to all cases that are assigned to the docket of Judge Jonathan P. Starn of the Hancock County Common Pleas Court.
2. The attached Temporary Policies and Procedures shall remain in effect until further order.

  
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JUDGE JONATHAN P. STARN

**THE CLERK OF COURTS SHALL CAUSE A COPY OF THIS ORDER TO BE POSTED  
IN A CONSPICUOUS LOCATION IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURTS  
AND SHALL PLACE A COPY IN THE MAIL DRAWERS OF ALL ATTORNEYS  
LOCATED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURTS.**

**Hancock County Common Pleas Court**  
**Judge Jonathan P. Starn**  
**REVISED Temporary Policies and Procedures in Response to**  
**COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Public Health Emergency**  
**- Effective June 2, 2021 until further order -**

*All parties and attorneys are encouraged to exercise good health practices as recommended by the Director of Health for the State of Ohio and Hancock Public Health when it comes to appearing for Court hearings. If you are sick, have recently been sick, or are concerned that you may have been recently exposed to the COVID-19 virus (or to someone that may have been exposed to the virus), PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT and opposing counsel to explore options on a case-by-case basis.*

***All Cases:***

- Any requests for a continuance relating to health or safety concerns due to COVID-19 shall comply with Hancock County Local Rule 1.14(A)
- Any orders of this Court and all orders of the Director of Health for the State of Ohio and of Hancock Public Health shall be complied with regarding use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and social distancing, unless inconsistent with an order of this Court.
- Subject to any limitations or restrictions that may be determined by the Judge or Magistrate on a particular case, any person, witness, party or attorney may wear appropriate PPE as they believe may be necessary.

***Civil Cases (including Domestic Relations, Foreclosures and Workers Compensation):***

- All pre-trials that are not designated as a final pre-trial, unless otherwise ordered by the Judge or Magistrate handling the case, shall be conducted by telephone (conference call) or other electronic method approved by the Judge or Magistrate. Unless otherwise ordered or agreed to by all parties, the Plaintiff shall be responsible for initiating all pre-trial conference calls. If a 'call-in' or 'access' number is required, it shall be provided to all parties and the court at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled pre-trial. The parties, unless appearing *pro se* or otherwise approved by the Court in advance, shall not

participate in the telephone pre-trial, but shall be available to counsel either in person (but not listening in on the pre-trial) or by telephone.

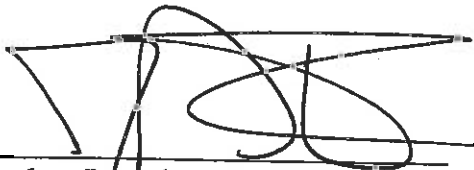
- All final pre-trials or other hearings (not otherwise addressed herein) will occur in person as scheduled unless otherwise ordered.
- All mediations scheduled with the Court's Mediators shall occur as scheduled. Any request to permit a party to the mediation to appear other than in person shall be directed to the Mediator assigned to the case. No requests to appear other than in person will be permitted by the Court unless approved by the Mediator.
- All jury trials will occur as scheduled. Counsel for all parties shall discuss, prior to the final pre-trial, any health or safety issues that may be unique to the case and that will need to be addressed as part of any jury trial.

#### ***Criminal Cases:***

- All first and second pre-trials and any pre-trials that are not scheduled to occur with the Judge shall be held by telephone between defense counsel and the prosecuting attorney assigned to the case. The pre-trial shall occur on or before the scheduled date and time. The prosecuting attorney shall initiate the calls for all pre-trials. Defense counsel shall, prior to the pre-trial occurring, have had appropriate contact with their client and shall have reviewed with the defendant all discovery provided by the State of Ohio up to that time. Defense counsel shall either sign the pre-trial form or otherwise approve the form within 24 hours of the pre-trial occurring. The State of Ohio shall, within 48 hours of the scheduled date/time for the pre-trial, submit the appropriate pre-trial form to the Court. ***The pre-trial form shall be fully completed and shall explain in detail the status of the case.***
- For all pre-trials with the Court, other than final pre-trials, in cases where the Defendant is currently incarcerated, the Defendant shall not, unless specifically ordered by the assigned Judge, be transported to the courthouse by the Hancock County Sheriff. **Counsel for the Defendant shall meet with the Defendant prior to the pre-trial with the Court and again within 24 hours following the pre-trial with the Court.**

- All arraignments for Defendants that are in custody (in-custody arraignments) shall occur in Courtroom 2 and not in the Hancock County Jail. The Defendant will continue to be taken to the 'jail courtroom' and shall appear by video. **Counsel for the Defendant shall meet with the Defendant prior to the scheduled arraignment.** Counsel for the Defendant, if appointed or retained less than 48 hours prior to the scheduled arraignment, shall make all reasonable efforts to meet with the Defendant prior to the arraignment. Defense counsel, if needed, will be permitted to speak privately with the Defendant by video during arraignments.
  - o During in-custody arraignments, due to the need of counsel to be able to speak privately with their clients by video during the hearings, those not directly associated with the case being conducted shall wait in the hallway until their case is called.
  - o The parties are encouraged, to the extent appropriate, to utilize written pleas in lieu of appearing in person for arraignments.
- Financial Review Hearings will occur as scheduled.
- The Adult Probation Department will continue to review, on a case-by-case basis, appropriate reporting requirements for both bond and community control supervision. All questions should be directed to the supervising officer.
- All jury trials will occur as scheduled. Counsel for the State of Ohio and the Defendant shall be prepared to discuss any health or safety issues that may be unique to the case as they may relate to any procedures regarding how the jury trial will be conducted.

***UNLESS MODIFIED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, THESE MODIFIED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE June 2, 2021 AND SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER ORDER.***

  
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Judge Jonathan P. Starn