

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, BLAIR COUNTY  
24<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN RE: 24<sup>TH</sup> Judicial District –

DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

Supreme Court:  
No. 20 WM 2020  
Blair County No.:  
No. 2020 MD 0003

EXTENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2020, upon consideration of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Order of March 16, 2020 declaring a general, Statewide Judicial Emergency, Order of April 28, 2020, extending the general, Statewide Emergency, and Order of May 27, 2020 ceasing the Statewide Judicial Emergency as of June 1, 2020 as well as this Court's previous Administrative Orders dated **April 24, 2020, May 29, 2020 and July 1, 2020**, it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED as follows:

1. The local judicial emergency for Blair County shall be extended through December 31, 2020 only for the specific reasons set forth below and for the time frames prescribed.
2. From the date of this Order through December 31, 2020, all Common Pleas judges and Magisterial District Court judges are authorized and encouraged to continue the following:
  - a. Using advanced communication technology, including BlueJeans, Zoom, telephone and audio/visual devices, when reasonably possible and practicable;

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- b. Staggering court appearance times to reduce contact;
  - c. Limiting meetings, conferences and other gatherings to essential participants to reduce contact.
  - d. Requiring court participants and attendees, including counsel, to wear personal protective equipment/"PPE" like masks or face shields and/or utilizing barriers in the courtroom and other social distancing techniques.
3. Hearings requiring personal appearances will be scheduled at the discretion of the presiding judge.
4. Individuals permitted general access to any court facility shall be required to maintain appropriate social distancing, wear protective face masks and must comply with all safety guidelines issued by the Court and Staff.
5. Only necessary and authorized individuals will be allowed entry to any court facility to minimize person-to-person contact. Members of the public, including the media, are permitted to observe court proceedings. Other than media representatives, any person wishing to observe a court proceeding must contact the Blair County Court Administrator's Office one (1) business day prior to the proceeding in order for arrangements to be made to effectuate that person's attendance while complying with CDC guidelines and Blair County Safety Measures. Court Administration may be contacted by leaving a detailed message at 814-693-3050 requesting attendance at a court proceeding. Failure to make prior arrangements to attend such proceeding may result in entry to the proceeding being denied. Entry will be limited by capacity of the courtroom and is not the decision or policy of the individual judge presiding.

6. The purpose of this Administrative Order is to continue the gradual reopening of the Blair County Court system in a safe and efficient manner while adhering to CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health Guidelines in order to protect all court personnel, court users and the public.

**BY THE COURT:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth A. Doyle', written over a horizontal line.

Elizabeth A. Doyle, P.J.