

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE 39TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT FRANKLIN COUNTY
AND FULTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE:
39th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DECLARATION OF
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

: ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
:
:
: No. 57 MM 2020

45 of 2020 MCP (Fulton)

EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE JUDICIAL ORDER
CONFIRMING SCHEDULED COURT PROCEEDINGS AS A "CRITICAL PURPOSE" EXEMPTION
TO THE PENNSYLVANIA SECRETARY OF HEALTH'S TRAVEL RESTRICTION ORDER
EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 20, 2020

AND NOW THIS 20th day of November, 2020,

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Levine issued a travel restriction order with an effective date of November 20, 2020;

AND WHEREAS, in conjunction with the issuance of this order, The Pennsylvania Department of Health provided answers to Frequently Asked Questions regarding the order on its website;

AND WHEREAS, Section 4, "Exemptions", Subsection e. of the Secretary's November 20, 2020 order provides, "Additional exemptions may be issued in guidance documents issued by the Department";

AND WHEREAS, under the Frequently Asked Questions section to the order the following information is provided: "Additionally, quarantine is not required for individuals who travel routinely for work or other critical purposes, such as medical appointments or to comply with a court order such as custody exchanges." (Emphasis added);

AND WHEREAS, it is presumed within the operations of the judiciary that matters scheduled for appearances before a judge are done so under a standing administrative order or by a specific scheduling order. In all instances any person notified to appear before a court is required to appear or else they shall be subject to a summons or a bench warrant to secure their attendance and appearance before the court;

For the foregoing reasons **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that any matter on the dockets of the Court of Common Pleas of the 39th Judicial District, Magisterial Judicial District Court, or master/hearing officer/conciliator/arbitration panel/arbitrator shall be considered a “critical purpose”. All persons traveling to the 39th Judicial District shall be deemed to be traveling for a “critical purpose” by all members of the judiciary within the district;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that although persons shall be deemed to be traveling for a critical purpose to attend court in the 39th Judicial District, this shall not limit the discretion of each individual judge within the district to grant or deny continuances or to provide for alternative forms of attendance via video or audio systems or to grant such other relief as the judge may determine is appropriate in each case.

By the Court,



Hon. Shawn D. Meyers, President Judge

Dist:
Common Pleas Judges for the 39th Jud. Dist.
Hon. Angela Krom
Hon. Jeremiah Zook
Hon. Todd Sponseller
Hon. Mary Beth Shank
Magisterial District Judges
Court Administration

