

IN THE MOUNT VERNON MUNICIPAL COURT, MOUNT VERNON, OHIO

FILED

In Re: Public Health and Coronavirus (COVID-19)

2020 MAR 13 PM 3:18
JOURNAL ENTRY

In view of the current public health concerns due to the ^{MT VERNON MUNICIPAL COURT} ~~coronavirus (COVID-19)~~, the Court finds that temporary orders are necessary to mitigate the public health risk while maintaining effective Court operations. Now, therefore, effective **March 13, 2020, at 8 a.m.**, the Court TEMPORARILY ORDERS as follows:

1. In all criminal, traffic and civil cases, only attorneys, the parties, the victims and the media will be permitted to attend hearings and trials in the courtroom on the third floor of 5 North Gay Street, Mount Vernon, Ohio, also known as the Plaza Building.
2. In all cases, witnesses in hearings or trials will be required to wait outside the third floor of the Plaza Building ready to be called as necessary.
3. Continuances will be granted when attorneys, parties or victims are or have been ill.
4. Court staff are authorized to ask individuals entering the third floor whether they are ill or have been ill and, if yes or an individual chooses not to respond, the individual will not be permitted to remain on the third floor; the Court will continue the hearing or trial or make other accommodations if the individual's business is with the Clerk's Office.
5. Attorneys, parties or victims will be permitted to object on the record in the hearing or trial, or in writing, to this temporary order restricting courtroom access.
6. The Court, in consultation with attorneys, parties and victims, will determine whether it is necessary to continue a jury trial, or to modify this temporary order restricting courtroom access.
7. The Adult Probation Department is authorized to implement temporary internal policies necessary to protect the health of Probation staff, other Court employees, probationers and Court users consistent with general public safety.

These TEMPORARY ORDERS will remain in effect until lifted by the Court.



John C. Thatcher, Judge

cc. City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon Police Dept.
Mount Vernon Law Director
Clerk of Court
Adult Probation Dept.
Knox County Sheriff's Office
Knox County Public Defender
Knox County Bar Association
Local Media

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IN THE MOUNT VERNON MUNICIPAL COURT, MOUNT VERNON, OHIO

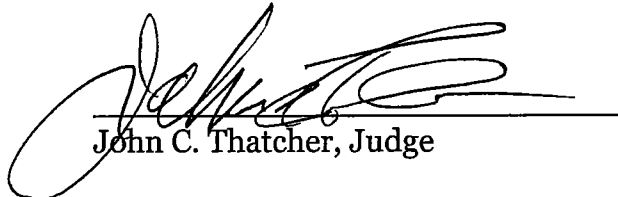
In Re: Public Health and Coronavirus (COVID-19) JOURNAL ENTRY
(Civil Matters & Misc.)

MT. VERNON MUNICIPAL COURT

In view of the current public health concerns due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Court finds that temporary orders are necessary to mitigate the public health risk while maintaining effective Court operations. Now, therefore, effective **March 23, 2020**, the Court **TEMPORARILY ORDERS** as follows:

1. For 60 days from the date of this order the Clerk shall accept civil case filings (complaints, motions, notices, etc.) **only by mail or fax**; and the public is reminded that forms for complaints in Forcible Entry and Detainer (evictions) and Small Claims are available on the Court's website <http://mountvernonmunicipalcourt.org/civil-division/>).
2. All pre-trial hearings and bench trials shall be continued to a specific date at least 60 days from the date of this order, and all pre-trial hearings shall be conducted by phone.
3. All judgment debtor examinations, rent escrow hearings and damages hearings shall be continued or scheduled to a specific date at least 60 days from the date of this order.
4. Applications for garnishment hearings shall be accepted by the Clerk and scheduled according to current procedures.
5. In pending eviction cases, hearings shall be continued or scheduled to a specific date at least 60 days from the date of this order, and the Clerk shall limit the number of eviction cases scheduled on any one day to no more than five.
6. For 60 days from the date of this order no writ of restitution shall be executed when the property subject to the writ remains occupied; if the property subject to the writ is vacant the Plaintiff may be restored to possession of the property.
7. Cases pending in the Small Claims Division of the Court shall be continued to a specific date at least 60 days from the date of this order.
8. New cases received in the Small Claims Division of the Court shall be scheduled for hearing at least 60 days from the date of this order, and the Clerk shall limit the number of Small Claims cases scheduled on any one day to no more than three.
9. The Pay Plan hearings scheduled on April 8 and May 13, 2020, at 11 a.m. are rescheduled to June 10, 2020, at 11 a.m.
10. Those who have scheduled weddings are discouraged from having their weddings take place during the next 60 days; for weddings that do go forward only six individuals may attend in addition to the individuals being married.

These TEMPORARY ORDERS will remain in effect until lifted by the Court.


John C. Thatcher, Judge

cc. City of Mount Vernon
Clerk of Court
Knox County Bar Association
Local Media