IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF ERIE COUNTY, OHIO GENERAL DIVISION

IN RE: GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
IN RESPONSE TO THE ON-GOING
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

: CASE NO: 2022-MS-00/3

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The Erie County Common Pleas Court, General Division, previous issued an Administrative Order on March 1920205 extensions of that March 13th Order, due to the public emergency as a result of the COVID -19 pandemic.

Due to the continued public health emergency as a result of the Covd-19 pandemic, and the surge in COVID cases from its variants (Delta, Omicron), the Erie County Common Pleas Court, General Division, hereby issues the following Administrative Orders.

- (1) All pending civil and criminal jury trials are continued through February 4, 2022 or until further Order of this Court.
- (2) All in person Civil proceedings, except emergency actions, are continued through February 4, 2022 or until further Order of this Court. Civil proceedings may be conducted by phone/ Zoom/ WebX, or otherwise.

Should an assigned Judge want an in person Civil proceeding or Criminal jury trial, that will be left to the sound discretion of that assigned judge. (All currently scheduled Probate hearings during this time period shall proceed unless the Court notifies the parties otherwise.)

- (3) All Domestic Relations matters shall be handled pursuant to the discretion of the assigned Judge and within the guidelines set forth by the CDC.
- (4) With regard to Criminal matters, due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate panel of prospective jurors ² during this public health crisis, and the inability of the Court to function at normal capacity due to staffing, and others being at risk, the time period of continuances implemented by this General Order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act and RC §2945.71.

Pursuant to §2945.72(H) the Court finds that the health and safety of the community, as well as the Court's staff members, outweighs the interests of the parties and the public to a speedy trial, finds good cause to continue jury trials to protect public health.

The General Division of the Common Pleas Court, as well as, the Probate Court will remain open. The staff of each individual Judge and the Clerk's office will be available, albeit on a limited basis live, but also available via phone. Mail will continue to be received. Essential hearings shall be heard at the discretion of the assigned Judge to the case. Electronic filing will continue through CourtView.

^{1.} Extensions of that March 13th Administrative Order were filed on April 14, 2020, December 17, 2020, and March 3, 2021,

The public may utilize the courthouse but, in furtherance of public safety, only individuals with business before the Court should be admitted.

Counsel and/or parties shall call the Court prior to coming to the courthouse if there is any question if the case is proceeding or their attendance is required.

All prior Administrative Orders pertaining to this public health crisis are in full force and effect.

The Court may revisit the terms of this Order as necessary and prior to February 4, 2022.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Judge Tygh M. Tone Administrative Judge

Judge Roger E. Binette

Benerly K. McGookey 1/7/2022 Judge Beverly K. McGookey

^{2.} Prospective Jurors have been voicing their concerns to Administrative staff about serving and the COVID pandemic.