

IN

08:03 am, Mar 24, 2020

DEBORAH A. MYERS

CLERK OF COURTS

ASHLAND COUNTY, OHIO

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, ASHLAND COUNTY, OHIO
GENERAL DIVISION**

IN RE:

**OVID-19 EMERGENCY
DECLARATION - COURTROOMS
CLOSED TO UNNECESSARY
PERSONS**

**JUDGMENT ENTRY
SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS**

This matter is before the Court *sua sponte* as a result of the recent, extraordinary situation involving the current pandemic involving COVID-19, and the measures mandated by the State of Ohio to protect public health.

Notwithstanding this Court's prior Order directing most court proceedings to be conducted by telephone conference or video conference, **effective March 24, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.**, ALL courtrooms of the Ashland County Common Pleas Court, General and Domestic Relations Division, shall be closed to all persons not necessary to any hearing being conducted. Therefore, only litigants, their attorneys, guardians *ad litem*, witnesses, interpreters, court stenographers, jurors (when required) and essential court staff shall be permitted access to the courtrooms. When conducting in-court proceedings, all present shall practice appropriate social distancing as recommended by the CDC and Ohio Department of Health. If there is a request for media access to a hearing, the Court will live-stream the proceedings in Courtroom One, and media may then access the live-stream through the Court's website. This policy shall remain in effect until the COVID-19 public health emergency is resolved.

It is so ordered.



Ronald P. Forsthoefel, Judge