



ASHLAND COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT
General and Domestic Relations Divisions
142 West Second Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805
Website: www.ashlandcommonpleas.com

Phone: 419-282-4291

Facsimile: 419-281-8315

March 19, 2020

**COURT ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 2 RELATING TO
COVID-19 EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS**

CONTRARY TO A STATEMENT THAT APPEARED IN THE ASHLAND TIMES-GAZETTE ON MARCH 19, 2020, THE ASHLAND COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT, GENERAL AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISIONS **IS OPEN AND WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR BUSINESS.**

The Court intends to conduct normal operations throughout the course of the COVID-19 emergency. There **will** be changes to processes and methods, but the Court intends to still conduct jury trials, final divorce hearings, dissolutions, child custody proceedings, mediations, civil hearings, etc. **Due to the unique technological capabilities of the Ashland County Common Pleas Court, General and Domestic Relations Divisions, which we've been working hard at developing the past few years to deal with situations just like this, this Court will be able to conduct normal court operations while still meeting most of the recommendations of the CDC to protect the health and safety of our staff, attorneys, and litigants.**

An announcement will be made in the near future of policies to be adopted and activated by the Court on or about March 30, 2020. When that happens, a copy of the judgment entry establishing the policies will be posted at the Court's website on the page where you accessed this notice. In the meantime, we have been working with our staff and your attorneys to make sure everyone possesses the necessary training and tools to conduct the business of the court by alternative means that help to ensure the health and safety of everyone. We don't want to create problems or headaches for those accessing the justice system, and so we are taking a methodical approach toward compliance with CDC guidelines. We are mindful of the need for safety, but we also believe we need to keep the operations of the Court fully functional to maintain public civility and safety, and to protect the constitutional and legal rights of residents of Ashland County.

Please note that this Court did not, in any way, provide information to the Ashland Times-Gazette that is contrary to what was stated above. The Ashland County Clerk of Courts adopted policies and procedures for her office only, and apparently her announcement was either misstated or misinterpreted by the Times-Gazette staff.

Additional announcements will be posted as circumstances warrant. Please look for a formal announcement as to changes in the Court's operational methods on or before Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

Judge Ronald P. Forsthoefel