

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION BEFORE COMING TO COURT FOR A HEARING IN MUNICIPAL COURT, ROOM 154:

Judge Josh Berkowitz has implemented changes to court proceedings in room 154 to prevent and reduce the risk of infection and spread of COVID-19, and to ensure that everyone feels safe coming to court. Please direct any questions or concerns to bailiff, Gary Rutz, at 513-946-5149.

1. Anyone who is ill, has a fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, recent loss of taste or smell, chills, sneezing or other symptoms consistent with having the COVID -19 virus, must contact bailiff, Gary Rutz, at 946-5149 to request a continuance, remote hearing, or other accommodation.
2. If a party or attorney resides in a household with, has been a caretaker for, or has knowledge that they have been exposed to anyone with the COVID-19 virus within the two weeks preceding the hearing, the court will continue the hearing. The party and/or attorney should contact bailiff, Gary Rutz, at 946-5149 to reschedule the hearing.
3. If a party or attorney is in an "at-risk" group of contracting the COVID-19 virus due to age or other underlying health reason and does not desire to attend the hearing, please contact the court by calling bailiff, Gary Rutz, at 946-5149 to request accommodations or reschedule the hearing.
4. If a party or attorney resides in another state and attendance at the hearing would require air travel or would require violation of any "Stay at Home" or similar order in effect in that state, the Court will continue the hearing. The party and/or attorney should contact the court bailiff, Gary Rutz, at 946-5149 to reschedule the hearing.
5. Social distancing will be practiced in the courtroom. As a result, the number of persons allowed into the courtroom will be limited. Anyone with a case in 154 needs to sit in the hall until their case is called. Only one case will be called at a time and access to the courtroom will be limited to one case only.

6. The use of masks while is required everywhere in the courthouse and will be enforced in room 154. Hearing participants may be asked to wash their hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer prior to entering the courtroom.

7. All Pre-Trial hearings with counsel will be conducted remotely, either by Zoom or by telephone conference. In-person pre-trial hearings must be requested in advance and require approval of the court. Contact bailiff, Gary Rutz, at 946-5149 to request Zoom access or address any other pre-trial matters.

8. Attorneys are encouraged to request remote hearings for all matters where a physical appearance is not absolutely necessary to conduct the hearing. To request a remote hearing, either by telephone conference or Zoom, please contact bailiff, Gary Rutz, at 513-946-5149.