

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA
MIDDLE DISTRICT**

IN RE: 31st JUDICIAL DISTRICT – : No. 48 MM 2020
DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY :

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IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: JUDICIAL EMERGENCY ORDER : NO. 2020-J-0094

12th AMENDED JUDICIAL EMERGENCY ORDER

AND NOW, this 19th day of May, 2021, the Court, on April 15, 2021, having declared a judicial emergency in the 31st Judicial District of Pennsylvania through July 30, 2021;

AND, in accordance with the Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania entered May 27, 2020, in In Re General Statewide Judicial Emergency (Nos. 531 and 532 Judicial Administration Docket);

AND, it being the intention of the Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County (“Court”) to protect the health and safety of the public and Court employees and maintain as high a level of operation and service as possible without compromising the legal rights of any parties;

AND, notwithstanding the recent change in recommendations from the United States Centers for Disease Control and the Pennsylvania Department of Health;

AND, because of the difficulty in determining whether individuals entering the Courthouse have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19;


IT IS ORDERED that:

A. The following protocols shall be observed through July 2, 2021:

1. Access to the Lehigh County Courthouse or any court facility shall be limited to employees of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania and the County of Lehigh, persons having business with the courts, departments or offices contained within such facilities, and persons observing court proceedings open to the general public (See: Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952(B)(2)(d));

2. All employees, court users and visitors to the Lehigh County Courthouse or any court facility, court proceeding or court-related function shall wear face masks and observe all signage within the courthouse regarding social distancing; and
 3. All payors shall be encouraged to make payments by mail, electronically (on-line), or by telephone rather than in person.
- B. The Sheriff of Lehigh County shall assist in the implementation of this Order.
- C. To the extent not inconsistent herewith, the 11th Amended Judicial Emergency Order entered April 15, 2021 shall remain in full force and effect.

BY THE COURT:



J. Brian Johnson, P.J.