

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
ADMINISTRATIVE GOVERNING BOARD
OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

No. 15 of 2020

In re: Essential Court Functions

ORDER

AND NOW, this 20th day March, 2020, in accordance with the General Statewide Judicial Emergency Orders issued by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on March 18th, 2020 (Nos. 531 and 532 Judicial Administration Docket), directing the closure of court facilities in all judicial districts as to *non-essential functions*, and authorizing in-person court proceedings in some emergency matters involving *essential functions*, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND**

DECREED THAT:

1. President Judge Administrative Orders Docket Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 shall remain in effect until further order from this court, with the following modifications set forth below.
2. All First Judicial District of Pennsylvania courts and related offices will remain closed through the workday of April 3, 2020 and reopen Monday April 6, 2020. Any legal papers or pleadings required to be filed between March 17, 2020 and April 6, 2020 shall be deemed to have been timely filed if they are filed by Monday, April 13, 2020.
3. Juvenile Detentions Hearings and shelter care hearings held pursuant to 42 Pa.C.S. §6332 shall now be held at the following location: **Philadelphia Family Court, 1501 Arch Street, Philadelphia**. These hearings will be held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Entry to the Family Court Building will be strictly limited to only participants on scheduled matters, counsel of record, and immediate family members/guardians.
4. At the direction of the Supervising Judge of the Criminal Section Leon Tucker, the President Judge of Municipal Court, Patrick Dugan, or his designee, is authorized to conduct Common Pleas Court criminal bench warrant hearings using video conference technology. This will include hearings on “Judge only” bench warrants.

This authorization shall continue throughout the duration of this judicial emergency, or until further order from this court.

5. Consistent with the Supreme Court Order issued March 18, 2020, and due to the limited availability of facilities and staff, the court continues to identify and prioritize *essential functions* and continues to develop protocols and procedures to make operational those *essential functions* which will be set forth in detail by subsequent orders issued by this court.

This Order shall be filed with the Office of Judicial Records in a Docket maintained for orders issued by the Administrative Governing Board of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, and shall be submitted to the State Court Administrator, posted on the website of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania (<http://www.courts.phila.gov/regs>), and published by The Legal Intelligencer.

BY THE COURT:



**Honorable Idee C. Fox, President Judge
Chair, Administrative Governing Board
First Judicial District of Pennsylvania
President Judge, Court of Common Pleas,
Philadelphia County**