

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

No 31 of 2020

In re: CONTINUATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

ORDER

AND NOW, this 22nd day of April pursuant to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Orders of March 16, 2020, March 18, 2020, and the Second Supplemental Order of April 1, 2020, authorizing the President Judges to declare a Judicial Emergency through May 31, 2020, as Chair of the Administrative Governing Board of the First Judicial District, the Emergency Declaration issued on March 17, 2020, under Administrative Orders 9 and 10 of 2020 is extended from May 1, 2020 through the close of business on May 29, 2020. The First Judicial District remains generally closed to the public, with certain essential operations continuing subject to certain general and specific directives and exceptions as set forth in this Court's Administrative Orders entered subsequent to March 17, 2020, and said Administrative Orders are likewise extended through the close of business on May 29, 2020, it is further **ORDERED AND DECREED THAT:**

1. Alternative methods of signing, delivery and service of court orders shall be permitted if authorized by each individual judge. This includes, but is not limited to, electronic signatures captured by image technology, facsimile signatures, proxy signatures and designated court employees authorized to sign on behalf of a judge after the judge has reviewed and approved the document for signature. Similarly, alternative methods of signing legal papers by *pro se* litigants shall be authorized if the pleading is being filed electronically as follows: “/s/ ***First Name, Last Name of the pro se litigant***” and where the litigant is signing legal papers (such as a PFA or EPFA or subpoenas) in the presence of court staff, as follows: upon verification of the identity of a *pro se* litigant, court staff shall enter on the applicable signature line the name of the *pro se* litigant as follows” “/s/ ***First Name, Last Name of the pro se litigant/Initials of Court Staff***.”

2. The issuance of residential writs of possession, and the execution or enforcement of residential writs of possession issued by the Court of Common Pleas Office of Judicial Records before this date, remain **STAYED** until June 1, 2020 or until further order of court. Relief from the stay provided by this Order may be sought by filing an Emergency Petition setting forth the reason(s) for such relief.
3. The Orphans' Court Protocol implemented pursuant to this Court's April 9, 2020 order, (No. 30 of 2020), is expanded to permit determinations of uncontested petitions filed on and after March 16, 2020 as well as, by agreement of the parties, remote hearings of emergency guardianship proceedings which do not include *pro se* parties.
4. The Philadelphia County Sheriff's Mortgage Foreclosure Sale scheduled for June 2, 2020 is postponed and rescheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 2020. No new notice shall be required, as provided in Pa.R.C.P. No. 3129.3. No further costs.
5. The Philadelphia County Sheriff's Tax Sales are rescheduled as follows:
 - The Tax Sale scheduled for June 4, 2020 is postponed and rescheduled for Thursday, September 3, 2020. No new notice shall be required, as provided in Pa.R.C.P. No. 3129.3. No further costs.
 - The Tax Sale scheduled for June 17, 2020 is postponed and rescheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2020. No new notice shall be required, as provided in Pa.R.C.P. No. 3129.3. No further costs.
 - The Tax Sale scheduled for June 13, 2020 is postponed and rescheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2020. No new notice shall be required, as provided in Pa.R.C.P. No. 3129.3. No further costs.
 - The Tax Sale scheduled for June 25, 2020 is postponed and rescheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2020. No new notice shall be required, as provided in Pa.R.C.P. No. 3129.3. No further costs.

BY THE COURT:

/s/ Idee C. Fox

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