

**In Re:48<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
Declaration of Judicial Emergency**

**: IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
: OF McKEAN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
: 48<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
: No. 230 CB 2020**

AND NOW, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021: 1) the Pennsylvania Supreme Court having issued an Order dated May 27, 2020, which grants the President Judge of each county the authority to declare a State of Judicial Emergency in their individual county; 2) there are continuing cases of Covid 19 infections in McKean County and, therefore, there being a continued need for mitigation efforts; and, 3) Covid vaccinations having been administered which, in part, lessens the spread and / or severity of Covid 19 symptoms for those that have been vaccinated – with the potential for increased vaccinations in McKean County in the upcoming weeks and months; IT IS ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

- A) The preference for holding civil and criminal proceedings in McKean County, both before the Court of Common Pleas, the Magisterial District Judges and Hearing Officers, is via advanced communication technology (video conference) - or - telephonic participation if authorized by the presiding judge. However, each judge and hearing officer has the discretion to conduct in person proceedings. All judges and hearing officers are to follow proper mitigation practices and limit the number of in person attendees to the greatest extent possible (Example: having parties appear but having witnesses appear via video conference).
  - B) All participants in proceedings must wear masks and socially distance;
  - C) All statewide and local rules that limit the use of advanced communication technology for the conducting of proceedings are suspended;
  - D) All filings are permitted to be filed electronically, and, all State or local rules that prohibit electronic filing are suspended;
  - E) All State rules pertaining to the right of a criminal defendant to a prompt trial or release on nominal bail (Pa. R.Crim.P. 600) are suspended;
  - F) Jury trials, as scheduled by court administration, shall resume.
- 1) To constitute sufficient publication, this order shall be:

A. Posted on the entry doors of the McKean County Courthouse, all magisterial district courts within McKean County and on the entry door of the McKean County Domestic Relations' Complex;

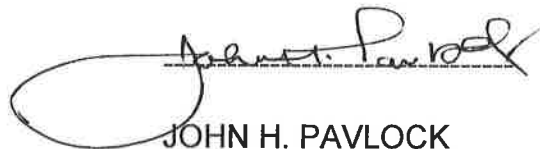
B. Posted on the McKean County Court of Common Pleas website;

C. Transmitted via e-mail to the McKean County Bar Association, with the request that it be forwarded on to all of its members; and,

D. Forwarded to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts by the McKean County Court Administrator.

**This Order remains in effect until July 15, 2021.**

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Pavlock", is written over a horizontal dashed line. A large, loopy flourish extends from the left side of the signature.

JOHN H. PAVLOCK  
PRESIDENT JUDGE

2021 APR 14 PM 2:21  
MCKEAN COUNTY PROTHONOTARY  
AND CLERK OF COURTS