

New Stark County foreclosure cases halted temporarily

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Local courts continue to modify operations in response to the pandemic.

CANTON Stark County Common Pleas Court has taken more steps in response to public health concerns over the coronavirus, including halting all new foreclosure case filings until further notice.

Proceedings in all pending foreclosure cases will be stayed, according to a news release from Common Pleas Court.

As a result the foreclosure mediation program is also being suspended.

Other measures include the continued suspension of criminal jury trials until April 20 (the original order had suspended the trials through the end of March).

And all civil jury trials scheduled to begin before June 1 are postponed, the news release said.

Juvenile court changes

Stark County Juvenile Court, through administrative order, is suspending all trials, hearings and proceedings in delinquency, traffic, civil, custody, abuse and neglect cases until further order, with the exception of:

- Initial hearings for detained youth
- Emergency removal/shelter care hearings
- Ex parte orders in all civil actions, which includes but is not limited to protection order requests against a minor
- Full hearings on protection order requests against a minor
- Judicial bypass proceedings

In all Stark County Juvenile Court matters that are currently pending, attorneys and self-represented parties will be contacted with a future court date (those parties are responsible for providing the court a current address).

Juvenile court is a division of Stark County Family Court.

Canton Municipal Court

Municipal Court is modifying its hours to 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. effective Tuesday as part of an order.

Canton Municipal Court is located in Canton City Hall.

All court business must be conducted by 3 p.m. or other arrangements should be made with each individual judge or magistrate concerning the conducting of remote proceedings, the order states.

More common pleas changes

The original common pleas court temporary order, issued March 13, also includes enhanced sanitation protocols, severe limitations on courthouse access, telephonic pretrial hearings in all civil cases, video hearings in all cases with jailed defendants, staggered employee shifts and work-at-home options for employees.

Judges have been meeting weekly to re-evaluate practices and policies.

Additional adjustments to the order include:

- All collection efforts on judgments are stayed until June 1, including debtor examinations, garnishments and sheriff's sales.

- All civil case mediation sessions scheduled to occur on or before May 29 are continued.

If a civil case remains unresolved, new dates should be scheduled through status calls with the office of the assigned judge.

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