

PORTAGE COUNTY  
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FILED

JUVENILE DIVISION 2020 APR 02 AM 7:49

STATE OF OHIO )  
COUNTY OF PORTAGE )

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
JUVENILE DIVISION  
CASE NO. 2020 JMX 04

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IN THE MATTER OF:

EMERGENCY ORDER  
DURING PANDEMIC FOR  
ABUSE, NEGLECT AND DEPENDENCY CASES

JOURNAL ENTRY  
ORDER OF REFERENCE

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This Court has made Emergency Orders on March 25, 2020, March 19, 2020, and March 16, 2020 in regards to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

On March 27, 2020, Governor DeWine signed legislation that in part tolls time deadlines and limitations on all court action during the Pandemic to July 30, 2020. On March 27, 2020, the Ohio Supreme Court tolled time deadlines for all hearings in Juvenile Courts.

The Portage County Juvenile Court on March 19, 2020, issued an Emergency Order that designated priority and non-priority case. Abuse, Neglect and Dependency cases are priority cases.

- 1.) The Portage County Juvenile Court shall allow parents and Guardian Ad-litem's, acting in the best interest of the child, to file and have a continuance granted in Abuse, Neglect and Dependency adjudicatory hearings or dispositional hearings which are presently scheduled prior to June 15, 2020. Any Abuse, Neglect and Dependency hearings continued by the Court, on a Motion filed by a parent or Guardian Ad-litem, acting in the best interest of the child, shall be continued to a date in July of 2020 or thereafter. If an adjudicatory hearing is continued, the adjudicatory

hearing and the dispositional hearing shall be set for the same day that the adjudicatory hearing is rescheduled;

- 2.) Any attorney retained or appointed to represent a party or appointed as a Guardian Ad-litem shall appear in person at all Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency hearings. Any attorney or Guardian Ad-litem who does not wish to appear for Court during the pandemic shall withdraw from the case immediately. Retained counsel shall aid the attorney's client in obtaining new counsel or co-counsel. Appointed counsel or an appointed Guardian Ad-litem shall notify the Court of their withdrawing from the case immediately and the Court shall appoint new counsel or Guardian Ad-litem;
- 3.) Any appointed counsel or Guardian Ad-litem withdrawing from a case due to the Pandemic shall be temporarily removed from the appointment list during the Pandemic period.

All other Emergency Orders of March 25, 2020, March 19, 2020, and March 16, 2020 shall remain in full force and effect.

IT IS SO ORDERED

April 2, 2020  
April 2, 2020

Robert W. Berger  
ROBERT W. BERGER, JUDGE  
ADMINISTRATIVE AND PRESIDING JUDGE