The Supreme Court of Ohio

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

June 3, 2020

[Cite as *06/03/2020 Administrative Actions*, 2020-Ohio-3155.]

In re Remote Administration of Oaths and Affirmations

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of Ohio issued Executive Order 2020-01D and declared a state of emergency in Ohio in response to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization publicly characterized COVID-19 as a global "pandemic" requiring "urgent and aggressive action" to control the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency;

WHEREAS, social distancing must be observed during the emergency period in all court proceedings and in each court in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that courts remain operational during the emergency period and are strongly encouraged to use technology to conduct trials and proceedings remotely;

WHEREAS, Civ.R. 30(B)(6) allows a deposition to be taken by telephone or other remote means upon stipulation of the parties or order of the court;

WHEREAS, the Court's May 15, 2020 Nunc Pro Tunc Order provides that any requirement in a rule of the Court that a party appear in person may be waived and that the party may appear remotely by use of technology;

WHEREAS, the Court has released over $6,000,000 in emergency grant funding to help local courts purchase technology equipment to deal with the impact of the COVID-19 emergency and the necessary measures to mitigate the spread of virus;

NOW THEREFORE, the Court hereby orders the following:

(A) This order shall apply retroactively to the date of the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D and shall expire on the date the period of emergency ends or July 30, 2020, whichever is sooner.

(B) As used in this order:

(1) "Rules of the Court" means the following rules promulgated by the Court:

(a) The Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct;

(b) The Ohio Rules of Appellate Procedure;

(c) The Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure;

(d) The Ohio Rules of Criminal Procedure;

(e) The Ohio Rules of Evidence;

(f) The Ohio Rules of Juvenile Procedure;

(g) The Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct;

(h) The Ohio Traffic Rules;

(i) The Rules for Appointment of Counsel in Capital Cases;

(j) The Rules for the Government of the Bar of Ohio;

(k) The Rules for the Government of the Judiciary of Ohio;

(l) The Rules of Practice of the Supreme Court of Ohio;

(m) The Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio;

(n) The Supreme Court Rules for the Reporting of Opinions;

(o) Mayor's Courts Forms, Instructions, and Education & Procedure Rules.

(C) Any oath or an affirmation required by a rule of the Court may be administered remotely by use of audio- or video-communication technology, provided the technology shall allow the person administering the oath or affirmation to positively identify the person taking the oath or making the affirmation.