

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: ACCESS TO FEDERAL :
COURTHOUSE BUILDINGS : STANDING ORDER 20-6
DURING THE COVID-19 :
OUTBREAK :

ORDER CONCERNING ACCESS TO MIDDLE DISTRICT FEDERAL BUILDINGS AND
COURTHOUSES DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

This General Order is issued in response to the recent outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The District Court of the Middle District of Pennsylvania is closely monitoring developments with regard to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Court is also closely monitoring the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), state and local public health authorities, and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. The CDC has noted that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure to the virus and has recommended that precautions be taken to prevent such exposure and reduce the spread of the virus.

Pursuant to the available public health guidance, and to protect the health and safety of court personnel and all those entering the Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Harrisburg or Williamsport Middle District Federal Buildings and Courthouses (collectively "Federal Buildings"), it is **ORDERED** that the following precautionary measures will be implemented at the Federal Buildings effective immediately:

The following persons shall not enter the Federal Buildings:

- Persons who, because of exposure to COVID-19 or travel to a country or region with an outbreak of COVID-19, have been advised to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency;
- Persons who reside with or have had close contact with someone who has been advised to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency;

- Persons who have been diagnosed with, or have had known contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with, COVID-19;
- Persons experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness such as fever, severe cough, or shortness of breath.

Anyone attempting to enter the Federal Buildings in violation of these restrictions will be denied entry by Court security personnel. If you believe you have been wrongfully denied entry, you may contact the Clerk's Office in the appropriate Division of the Court at the applicable number below:

- Harrisburg Clerk's Office – (717) 221-3920
- Scranton Clerk's Office – (570) 207-5600
- Williamsport Clerk's Office – (570) 323-6380

Any attorney or party who knows or has reason to believe that any participant in a scheduled hearing, trial, conference, deposition, or other proceeding meets any of the criteria set forth above shall promptly notify opposing counsel and the Clerk's Office in the appropriate Division of the Court at the applicable number above.

If you have a scheduled appointment or you are otherwise required to appear at either of the Federal Buildings, and you are unable to appear because of the restrictions listed above, you should proceed as follows:

- If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney;
- If you are an attorney or a pro se litigant and you are scheduled to appear in court before a judge, please contact the Clerk's Office in the appropriate Division of the Court at the applicable number above;
- If you are a pro se litigant and you are seeking to file papers with the Clerk's Office, please contact the Clerk's Office in the appropriate Division of the Court at the applicable number above;

- If you are scheduled to meet with a probation officer, please contact the Probation Office in the appropriate Division of the Court at the applicable number below:
 - Harrisburg Probation Office – (717) 901-2878
 - Scranton Probation Office – (570) 207-5841
 - Williamsport Probation Office – (570) 601-8531
- If you are a juror or prospective juror (including a grand juror), please contact the Clerk's Office in the appropriate Division of the Court at the applicable number above;
- For Court of Appeals matters, please contact the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit at (215) 597-2995;
- For matters involving any agency or entity other than the Court, please contact the particular agency or entity;
- For all other matters or questions, please contact the Clerk's Office in the appropriate Division of the Court at the applicable number above.

These restrictions apply to anyone entering the Federal Buildings, including employees, and will remain in place temporarily until it is determined to be safe to remove them. People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

This Order may be updated as further guidance is received.

SO ORDERED:

s/Christopher C. Conner
Christopher C. Conner, Chief Judge
United States District Court
Middle District of Pennsylvania

Dated: March 23, 2020