



THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA JUDICIAL CENTER
601 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE, 8TH FLOOR
P.O. BOX 60828
HARRISBURG, PA 17106-0828

THOMAS G. SAYLOR
CHIEF JUSTICE

(717) 772-1599

March 18, 2020

Senator Vincent Hughes
545 Capitol Building
Senate Box 203007
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senator Hughes:

I am writing to inform you that the Supreme Court has entered this date the attached administrative order that expands the statewide judicial emergency that was declared earlier this week. Among other things, this new declaration mandates that ALL court facilities shall be closed to the public for non-essential functions until at least April 3, 2020. This order also temporarily suspends time deadlines for filings and other judicial business during the declared emergency.

Consistent with the recommendations made by the executive branch, the Court believes it is prudent to restrict the amount of person-to-person contact to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. While the health and safety of our judges, employees, and the general public is of paramount concern, we also recognize that access to justice and the courts becomes even more critical in a time of national emergency such as this. As part of the order, the Court has provided guidance to our local judges as to what court functions are essential and shall remain open.

In light of the present circumstances, the order also addresses the issue of evictions, during the pendency of the judicial emergency.

Sincerely,



Thomas G. Saylor

Attachment