

IN THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE
STANDING ORDER NO. 4 CONCERNING COVID-19 PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

This 3rd day of June, 2020, it appears to the Delaware Justice of the Peace Court that:

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) presents a serious public health threat;

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has issued Proclamations prohibiting travel to the United States by foreign nationals who recently visited areas acutely impacted by COVID-19; the Department of State has issued Level 3 and Level 4 Travel Advisories for certain affected countries; and domestic and foreign health authorities have issued guidance to citizens within their respective jurisdictions, both recommending and mandating precautionary measures to defend against the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, has issued an advisement that individuals should follow the Center for Disease Control's recommendation to avoid crowds as much as possible;

WHEREAS, the Governor of Delaware has declared a State of Emergency, effective Friday, March 13th at 8:00 am E.S.T. due to a public health threat from COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Governor of Delaware has declared that Delawareans are to "shelter in place" and that all non-essential businesses are to be closed, beginning on March 24th at 8:00 am;

WHEREAS, the Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court has issued an administrative order restricting judiciary operations and temporarily suspending statutes of limitations, filing deadlines and notarization requirements in all courts and has issued an order extending the judicial emergency through June 13th;

WHEREAS, the Justice of the Peace Court serves in a continuous capacity during times of emergency in order to ensure that emergency and essential functions of the judicial system may continue;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

The measures set forth in Standing Order 3 shall remain in place until further order of the Justice of the Peace Court. For purposes of clarification, all restrictions related to landlord/tenant matters are in reference to residential landlord/tenant matters and do not apply to commercial leases. The Justice of the Peace Court's response to filings will be dictated by staff and judicial availability in accordance with the Judicial Branch and Justice of the Peace Court reopening plans. A comprehensive standing order related to residential landlord/tenant filings will be issued once those matters are permitted to be filed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. G. Davis', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Alan G. Davis
Chief Magistrate