

The Court of Common Pleas

Darke County, Ohio

Jonathan P. Hein, Judge

Courthouse, Greenville, Ohio 45331

(937) 547-7325 fax (937) 547-7323

commonpleas@co.darke.oh.us

Health Notice for Prospective Jurors, Parties, Attorney and Witnesses

If you are a litigant, attorney or prospective juror, be assured that the Court is working to balance the need for public service with health recommendations to reduce health risks during trials. This letter is designed to give you particular directions about some of these health orders.

First, prospective jurors who are 65 years of age or older may be excused on their own request. It is not mandatory to request this excuse, but if you make the request, you will be excused without further inquiry. If this applies to you, contact the Court to verify your intentions.

Next, prospective jurors who have a particular health condition(s) that increases the susceptibility of contracting a virus may also seek to be excused from jury service. If you believe you fit into this category, you may contact the Court to inquire about being excused. You will need to provide proof of the medical condition so be prepared to do so. The information will be kept confidential. However, you are not automatically entitled to be excused.

Generally, if you have a medical appointment and/or schedule conflict, these are not typically a reason to be excused from attendance at trial. If you have a scheduled medical appointment, you should seek to have it rescheduled. If rescheduling is not possible, please contact the Court to explain the conflict and seek guidance. Again, be prepared to submit proof of the medical appointment. The information will be kept confidential. You are not automatically entitled to be excused.

Social distancing, wearing masks, hand sanitizing and surface cleaning all are required during the trial. Much of what is expected in the public is also required in the courtroom. There are at times modifications to allow for effective communications.

Prospective jurors should not report if you have tested positive for Covid within 10 days prior to the trial date or are in a contact group that is expected to quarantine. Do not report if you have a fever above 99.9 degrees without use of fever-reducing medications, or if you have a persistent cough. Attorneys and pro se parties should notify the court if health issues arise. Witnesses should advise the party who summoned your appearance.

If you contact the Court, please use the number listed above and ask for the Bailiff or Court Reporter. Documents should be sent to the email address or fax number listed above. Make sure you have provided a valid phone number in the event the Court must contact you.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Jonathan P. Hein, Judge