



**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
FAMILY COURT DIVISION
STARK COUNTY, OHIO**

pmJ 13-20

2020 MI _____

**TEMPORARY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19
(CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

The Family Court Division Judges of the Stark County Court of Common Pleas make the following Findings of Fact:

1. On March 9, 2020 Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D "Declaring a State of Emergency" in response to the growing COVID-19 public health crisis.
2. On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 to be a global "pandemic" requiring "urgent and aggressive action" to control the spread of the virus.
3. On March 11, 2020 the first "community transfer" positive case of COVID-19 in the State of Ohio was confirmed to be in Stark County.
4. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other health authorities have advised people to take precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the COVID-19 virus.
5. Specifically, the CDC is recommending that people attempt to keep physical distance between themselves and other people. This technique, known as social distancing, is especially important for people who have a higher health risk should they contract the disease.

6. The CDC is also recommending employers attempt to minimize exposure between employees and the public and to consider the public health and safety when scheduling group or public events.

THEREFORE, in order to protect public health, and in order to reduce the size of public gatherings and unnecessary travel, while maintaining essential court functions, Stark County Family Court issues the following order.

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Effective immediately, the following persons shall not enter Stark County Family Court, located on the 4th and 6th Floors of the Stark County Office Building: **A)** Persons who have been diagnosed with, or have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with, COVID-19; **B)** Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency; **C)** Persons who have travelled to any of the following countries within the last 14 days: China, South Korea, Japan, Italy, Iran (This list may be updated on our website as further guidance is received.); **D)** Persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has travelled to one of the countries listed above within the last 14 days or reside or have had close contact with someone who has been asked to self-quarantine; **E)** Persons with a temperature which exceeds 100 degrees will not be allowed to appear in court. Visitors to Stark County Family Court are directed to report any of the above possible exposure to COVID19 to the Court Deputy at the Screening area before proceeding to the 6th Floor. Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by a Stark County Deputy.

2. The above referenced public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary by assigned Judges on a case-by-case basis.
3. The Court will have the lawful authority, within constitutional limits, to do and direct to be done all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice for the duration of the above referenced public health emergency.

This "Temporary Order" is ordered to be served on the Stark County Bar Association, the Stark County Prosecutor's Office, the Stark County Public Defender's Office, the Assigned Counsel Appointment List, the Family Court Website and area media outlets.

So Ordered,

Jim D. James, Judge

Rosemarie A. Hall, Judge

David R. Nist, Judge



The Court of Common Pleas
Stark County Family Court



Domestic Relations and Juvenile Division

HON. JIM D. JAMES
 HON. ROSEMARIE A. HALL
 HON. DAVID R. NIST
 Judges

Diane Wilson
 Court Administrator

Jacob Morgan
 Assistant Court Administrator

DATE: March 13, 2020
 TO: Sheriff Maier, Clerk of Courts Giavasis, Prosecutor Ferrero,
 Public Defender Johnson, SCDJFS, Attorneys and Staff
 FROM: Judges James, Hall and Nist
 SUBJECT: Coronavirus (COVID 19) Precautions

Effective Immediately- April 6, 2020 when precautionary practices will be reassessed.

As a result of the Governor declaring a state of emergency related to the Coronavirus (COVID 19), the Stark County Court of Common Pleas, Family Court Division, is taking various precautions to assist in the containment of the virus and protect litigants and staff. These precautions are as follows:

- Ⓢ Domestic Relations and Juvenile case pre-trials- The parties are to be directed not to appear for these hearings but to be available by telephone for communication. Legal counsel are to submit Pre-trial Statements as required by local rule and have the option of waiving the Pre-trial hearing.
- Ⓢ Domestic Relations Temporary Orders- For all pending Temporary Order Motions, cases which have legal representation can proceed with one of two options:
 - a. The hearing will proceed as scheduled with argument of counsel, however the parties are directed not to appear for these hearings but to be available by telephone for communication.
 - b. The oral hearing will be cancelled; the Temporary Order will be issued on the basis of affidavits and according to Civil Rule 75(N).

Cases wherein one of the parties is **self-represented** will proceed as scheduled with appearance by the parties optional.

- Ⓢ Requests to excuse personal appearance at all other hearings are to be directed to the assigned judge's office.
- Ⓢ Requests for video or phone conferencing should be made in advance of the hearing to the assigned judge.
- Ⓢ Parties are not to bring friends or family members to hearings unless they are required to testify in a trial or are serving as a victim advocate or another person providing support to the victim in a civil protection order case. Deputies may limit access to those who have legitimate business with the court.
- Ⓢ Visitation with detained youth will be restricted pursuant to institution/ attention center policy.
- Ⓢ Arraignments and Pre-trials for detained persons will be conducted by teleconference from the jail or detention.
- Ⓢ The Court's Supervised Visitation Program is suspended. Parties may contact the Supervised Visitation Program Coordinator for suggestions on alternative means of parent/child interaction.
- Ⓢ Home visits by court staff are suspended. Court staff will follow guidelines established by the Ohio Department of Health.
- Ⓢ The Court's Teen Court Diversion Program is suspended.
- Ⓢ Parent Cafés are suspended
- Ⓢ The Court will conduct supplemental cleaning/ disinfecting of the court's public areas.