

Public release related to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) public health issue

Effective March 24, 2020 through April 30, 2020 or until otherwise ordered or modified.

From: Barbara Schneider Carter, Administrative Judge

Date: March 23, 2020

The Domestic Relations Division of the Butler County Common Pleas Court continues to monitor the most current statements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Ohio Department of Health, and the Butler County Health Commissioner regarding Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The Domestic Relations Division is following orders from public health officials. At this time, there are further changes in court operations, as follows.

- **If you are ordered to appear in court for a Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order hearing**, then you are still required to appear in person, unless the judge or magistrate assigned to your case has excused your appearance.
- **If you are scheduled to appear before the Court in the near future**, other than as provided in the previous bullet point, contact your attorney or if you represent yourself, contact the Court at [513-887-3310](tel:513-887-3310), option 2, for further instruction. The Court may find it necessary to reschedule appearances, and will notify the parties.
- **Case Management is closed to the public.** All submittals to the Case Management Office are to be received by fax or email. Documents may be faxed to 513-785-5337 or 513-887-3560. Documents may be emailed to drcourtwebresponse@butlercountyohio.org.
- Previously approved Case Management documents will be returned by fax or email. The parties are responsible for taking the stamped approved fax or email document and making copies.
- If not approved, parties will need to fax or email the corrected documents back to Case Management.
- **Due to the Ohio Department of Health stay at home order for all non-essential functions, the Court will be significantly understaffed. There may be a significant delay in obtaining approved paperwork or Court Orders.**
- The Clerk will be authorized to take the approved faxed copies and filing fee.
- **As an exception**, Case Management will file Objections in order to insure compliance with Civil Rules. These must be sent via fax or email.
- Hearings may be continued for a significant time in the future. We appreciate your patience as we do our best to meet the needs of the public and follow Ohio public health mandates.
- **Until further order**, all scheduling conferences, motions for clarification, objections, pre-trial, and other non-evidentiary hearings will be held by telephone conference.
- **Domestic Violence hearings will take place as usual until further order.** However, only litigants and attorneys will be permitted in the courtroom. Witnesses will be asked to wait in the rotunda or outside of the security area. **Respondents** subject to a Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order may request a continuance. Plaintiffs that were denied a DVCPO that is set for final hearing may request a continuance.
- **If it is not safe for you to remain home, you are able and urged to find another safe place to stay during this order. If you cannot get to court, you may call the Ohio Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-934-9840 or contact your local law enforcement.**
- **Family Unit Services Suspended:** Domestic Relations Division has suspended its court ordered Home Investigations and Supervised Parenting Time appointments through April 30, 2020.

If you have flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), please inform the Court Security Officers at the courthouse entrance. You may be denied physical access to the Court. Thank you for your cooperation.