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2020 MAR 19 PM 3:15

MAUREEN G. KELLY
LAKE CO. CLERK OF COURT

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION
LAKE COUNTY, OHIO

IN RE:

TEMPORARY ORDER IN
DOMESTIC RELATIONS
CASES DUE TO COVID-19
PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY

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JUDGE COLLEEN A. FALKOWSKI

In response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Public Health Emergency and in addition to the Temporary Order that applies to all divisions of the Common Pleas Court (filed March 13, 2020 at 1:45 PM), the Lake County Domestic Relations Court makes the following **TEMPORARY ORDERS:**

Effective March 20, 2020 through April 30, 2020 or until further order of court, the Domestic Relations Court is open with restrictions as described in the Judgment Entry of Judicial Emergency filed March 13, 2020:

1. Only the parties to a case and their attorneys are permitted entry to the Courthouse for a scheduled hearing. No other persons are permitted entry. Parties and attorneys who are uncertain of their next court proceeding should call the Domestic Relations Court at (440) 350-2708 before traveling to court.
2. **DVCPOs.** The Court will remain open to hear all matters as to Domestic Violence Civil Protection Orders and Petitions. The Clerk of Courts can accept in-person filings for Ex Parte Domestic Violence Civil Protection petitions which shall be heard the day of filing.
3. **FILINGS.** The Clerk of Courts continues to accept filings in Domestic Relations cases. After March 20, 2020, all new filings shall sit for 24 hours in the Clerk of Courts Office before processing as a public health precaution. **THERE ARE NO FILINGS ACCEPTED**

IN PERSON AT THE CLERK OF COURTS OFFICE OTHER THAN EX PARTE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PETITIONS.

The declaration of public health emergency shall operate as a finding of good cause for continuances.

4. **METHOD OF FILING.** All attorney and self-represented filings are to be transmitted to the Clerk of Courts Office by the US Postal Service or by email. If by email, it is to be addressed to the Clerk only at maureen.kelly@lakecountyohio.gov. The documents will be printed, affixed with a label indicating receipt during this emergency and time stamped as of the date/time it was received in her inbox.

Attorneys and self-represented parties are requested to limit new case filings to those that are emergent or time sensitive. This is not a mandatory requirement, but a voluntary request.

Ex parte motions shall be filed pursuant to Local Rule 11.02.

5. **PRETRIAL MATTERS BEFORE JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE.** All pretrial hearings (pre-divorce decree or post-decree) will be conducted as already scheduled by telephone conference through April 30, 2020 or until further order of Court. The Court must be provided the telephone numbers of all attorneys and litigants prior to the hearing. Court staff will initiate the call.
6. **THE PARENTING CLASS.** The Court has cancelled the parenting class "For Our Children" through May 30, 2020 or until further order of the Court. Parents are permitted to find an online parenting class for divorcing parents, which will be accepted with verification of completion. The children's class "What About Me?" is also cancelled through May 30, 2020. These cancellations will not affect the case proceeding through the court system.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


COLLEEN A. FALKOWSKI, JUDGE