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2020 NOV 19 PM 4:13  
MAURGEN G. KELLY  
LAKE CO. CLERK OF COURT

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

IN RE:	)	
	)	
INTERIM ORDER IN	)	
DOMESTIC RELATIONS	)	JUDGE COLLEEN A. FALKOWSKI
CASES DUE TO COVID-19	)	
PUBLIC HEALTH	)	
EMERGENCY AND SURGE	)	
EFFECTIVE	)	
NOVEMBER 23, 2020	)	

Lake County has been designated as a Level 4 Watch List COVID-19 County as to severe exposure and spread. 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 **INTERIM ORDERS**:

**Effective November 23, 2020 through December 31, 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. All persons going to Domestic Relations shall wear a mask, are subject to inquiry of COVID-19 symptoms, and shall maintain a 6 feet distance with other persons in the building.
2. Only the parties to a Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order case and their attorneys are permitted entry to the Lake County Courthouse at 47 N. Park Place, Painesville, Ohio for an ex parte or scheduled full hearing in this Court. **NO OTHER PERSONS ARE PERMITTED ENTRY.** Parties and attorneys are ordered to monitor the online public docket for court dates and schedule changes at <https://phoenix.lakecountyohio.gov/pa>.

3. **DVCPOs.** The Court is open to hear all cases which are Domestic Violence Civil Protection proceedings. The Clerk of Courts is ordered to only accept in-person filings for Ex Parte Domestic Violence Civil Protection petitions which shall be heard the day of filing.

4. **ALL OTHER DOMESTIC RELATIONS FILINGS:** All in person filings at the Lake County Clerk of Courts are prohibited.

The declaration of a Public Health Emergency and November 19, 2020 designation as a Level 4 Watch List county shall operate as a finding of good cause for continuances in cases.

5. **METHOD OF FILING.** All attorney and self-represented filings are to be transmitted to the Clerk of Courts Office **ONLY** by the US Postal Service or by email. If by email, address it to the Clerk only at dr.clerk@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 the Clerk's email box. All US Mail filings are to be held by the Clerk of Courts for 24 hours before sending to Domestic Relations.

6. **PRETRIAL MATTERS BEFORE JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE.** All pretrial hearings (pre-divorce decree or post-decree) will be conducted as already scheduled by telephone conference or Zoom through December 31, 2020 or until further order of Court. The Court must be provided the telephone numbers and email addresses of all attorneys and litigants prior to the hearing. Court staff will initiate the call or host the Zoom proceeding.

7. **THE PARENTING CLASS.** Parents are permitted to locate an online parenting class for divorcing parents, which will be accepted by the Court with verification of completion.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

  
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COLLEEN A. FALKOWSKI, JUDGE

cc: Lake County Bar Association  
Lake County Sheriff's Department  
Lake County Prosecutor's Office  
Lake County Public Defender's Office  
Geauga County Bar Association  
Ashtabula County Bar Association  
Ohio Judicial Conference