

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS AND JUVENILE BRANCH
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

20JU-03-3181

**SEVENTH AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER (AO) IN RESPONSE
TO THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

The Administrative Judge of the Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, on behalf of the other Judges of this Bench, hereby makes the following Findings of Fact:

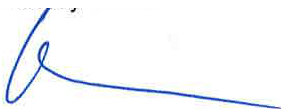
1. Since March 9, 2020 when Ohio Governor Mike DeWine initially issued Executive Order 2020-01D “Declaring a State of Emergency” in response to the growing COVID-19 public health crisis through May 1, 2020, this Court has issued a series of Administrative Orders setting forth COVID-19 protocols dictating Court operations.
2. The Franklin County Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court **shall remain in its transitional operations phase, as outlined in its May 17, 2021** Administrative Order. However, as COVID-19 remains a highly contagious viral ailment, the Court hereby implements the following updates to its preventative protocols. The Court deems such protocols remain necessary to safeguard the well-being of its employees and customers against COVID-19 and all variants thereof.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Franklin County Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch of the Court of Common Pleas **HEREBY ORDERS:**

1. Effective **August 9, 2021**, appropriate masks/face coverings (covering both the nose and mouth) are **required** by all persons entering any Court-controlled area unless a medically documented reason prevents the person from covering their face. This mandate shall remain in place until otherwise advised. N95 medical masks are not required; purchased or homemade cloth masks are acceptable. The protective covering shall be worn at all times while the individual is inside the courthouse, including courtrooms and the Juvenile Intervention Center (JIC).

2. Individuals are encouraged to bring their own facial coverings; however, the Court will provide masks to any person who does not have ready access to a facial covering. Persons refusing to wear a face covering, except in instances of a medically documented waiver, will be denied entry to the courthouse and/or the JIC.
3. Court employees are ***not required*** to wear facial coverings when working alone in their assigned work areas or personal offices.
4. Litigants, counsel and/or other Court visitors who display any symptom that *could be reasonably construed* as related to COVID-19 will be required to leave the courthouse immediately; their cases or business shall be continued;
5. This Amended Administrative Order in Response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Public Health Crisis shall be communicated to the Franklin County Commissioners, other Franklin County Courts and local justice partners. This document, and any amendments thereto, shall be posted to the DRJ Court website: <https://drj.fccourts.org>.
6. ***COVID-19 protocols and/or policies previously effectuated by the Court pursuant to its prior Administrative Orders shall remain in full effect, unless specifically modified herein.***

IT IS SO ORDERED:



JUDGE KIM A. BROWNE
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

ISSUE DATE: August 6, 2021