

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

2020 MC _____

**TEMPORARY ORDER 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, in consultation with the other Judges of this bench, hereby makes 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.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Franklin County Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch of the Court of Common Pleas has developed a continuum of flexible responses in case the current public health crisis escalates. This continuum of responses is intended to protect public health, to maintain essential court functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Franklin County Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch Rules of Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. The security policies of the Franklin County Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential court functions.
3. Certain provisions of the Franklin County Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch Employee Handbook may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential court operations and functions.
4. The Franklin County Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings.
5. This public health emergency may be considered a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary by assigned/duty Judges and/or Magistrates on a case-by-case basis.
6. 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 declared public health emergency.

JUDGE KIM A. BROWNE
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE