

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

**20JU-03-3181**

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

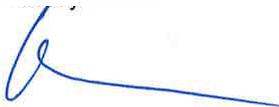
The Administrative Judge of the Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, in consultation with the other Judges of this bench, hereby makes the following Findings of Fact:

1. On March 9, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine initially 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.
3. On March 18, 2020, the Court issued its first Order detailing a continuum of flexible responses designed to protect public health, to maintain essential court functions, to protect the safety and welfare of its staff and customers and to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.
4. On May 8, 2020, the Court issued its second Order declaring that the public health emergency had been sufficiently abated to resume operations on a limited basis effective May 18, 2020.
5. The pandemic in Franklin County has now sufficiently abated to allow for a transitional return to pre-Covid-19 procedures with respect to in-person hearings on the Court’s Juvenile docket.

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

1. While the Franklin County DRJ Court continues to strive for a return to regular full operations on/before January 4, 2021, it reserves the right to further extend this Order should the existing public health emergency (or any other emergency situation) so dictate.
2. During the ongoing period of limited Court operations:
  - Absent a written waiver of appearance, youth shall be permitted to physically appear in the courtroom, if they so demand.
  - The Court will only deny the youth's physical presence in the courtroom if:
    - a) said youth presents an imminent security concern, or
    - b) there exists some other safety concern, such as a COVID-19 outbreak in the JIC that presents a serious risk of harm to the youth or any JIC or Court personnel.
  - In the event the Court determines that a youth will appear from the JIC, additional counsel will be permitted to join the youth at the JIC in addition to counsel inside the courtroom, and these attorneys will be able to collaborate via cellphone (or other electronic device), break-out room or other reasonable means.
3. All other provisions detailed in prior Administrative Orders promulgated by the Court in response to the Covid-19 pandemic shall remain in full force and effect, unless specifically modified herein.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**



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JUDGE KIM A. BROWNE  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

EFFECTIVE DATE:  
September 9, 2020