



ASHLAND COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT  
General and Domestic Relations Divisions  
142 West Second Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805  
Website: [www.ashlandcommonpleas.com](http://www.ashlandcommonpleas.com)

Phone: 419-282-4291

Facsimile: 419-281-8315

March 13, 2020

**COURT ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 1 RELATING TO  
COVID-19 EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS**

As a result of the recent emergency declarations issued by Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health, the Ashland County Common Pleas Court General and Domestic Relations Divisions is issuing the following position statements to respond to frequently asked questions the Court is beginning to receive:

**Rule 20 “Spring Break” Parenting Time:** Questions have arisen regarding the interpretation of what constitutes the time of Spring Break as provided in Local Form 20, the Court’s Standard Parenting Time Order. As the preamble to Form 20 states: “Parenting time SHALL TAKE PLACE AT SUCH TIMES AND PLACES AS THE PARTIES AGREE. If the parties cannot agree, then parenting time shall occur in accordance with the schedule outlined in Form 20.”

Current Form 20 provides that the time of Spring Break Parenting Time is “9:00 a.m. day after school stops until 7:00 p.m. day before school resumes.” It is the Court’s interpretation that given the current pandemic wherein schools will be closed for at least three (3 weeks), that Spring Break for the purposes of Form 20 shall be “9:00 a.m. day after school stops until 7:00 p.m. day before school resumes” of the Spring Break schedule of the school where the child attends that was previously established prior to this emergency. If a child is not yet attending school, the spring break parenting time for any non-school age child shall be based on the public-school schedule previously established for the district where the residential parent resides.

The Court encourages the residential and non-residential parent to work together regarding parenting time during this extraordinary time and to have the children spend as much time as possible with each parent during this emergency. However, if the parties cannot agree, the above definition of spring break shall be controlling until further order.

**Jury Duty:** The Court understands that persons over age 60, persons with a compromised immune system, and persons that might be already suffering from a respiratory ailment have been identified as having a higher risk of incurring serious adverse health conditions if exposed to COVID-19. The Court therefore intends, if requested by an individual summoned for jury service, to defer (in most cases) or excuse (only if absolutely necessary) any individual who is identified as a member of the high-risk group described in this paragraph. Those suffering from a compromised immune system (such as someone receiving chemotherapy), and those suffering from a current respiratory ailment **will** need to provide some medical evidence or a note from their doctor explaining the medical reason why they should be deferred (or excused if necessary) from jury duty.

Additional announcements will be posted as circumstances warrant.