



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
DIVISION OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT
RESUMING OPERATIONS VIRTUALLY**

Cleveland, OH, May 28, 2020 – The Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court is pleased to announce that beginning June 1, 2020 it will return to hearing all divorce, custody, support, and domestic violence matters. Given the COVID-19 crisis and health related concerns, most proceedings will be conducted remotely, by way of telephone or videoconference.

While initially postponing trials in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic except for emergency matters, the Court at once began planning how to conduct business in a way that protects the health of the public and court employees.

“Through technology, we can continue to make our services equally accessible and operate efficiently, despite resource constraints,” says Administrative Judge Leslie Ann Celebrezze. “In just a few short weeks, we have expanded our use of technology to convert our paper processes to electronic ones. By conducting proceedings in a ‘virtual courtroom’ using videoconferencing, we can responsibly manage cases in a way that is secure, safe, and fair, just as we would in the traditional way. We were very fortunate that we already had e-filing and a robust case management system that made it easy to build upon.”

The Court will hold in-person hearings only when remote participation is not possible. Only a limited number of people will be allowed in courtrooms to maintain safe distancing and everyone must wear a face covering. “We are doing our utmost to protect people from the virus while they are in the courthouse. We ask everyone to be considerate of each other and respect the need for precautions in this public health crisis. It’s best to contact the Court before coming downtown to make sure you are required to be here.”

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The Mission of the Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court is to help families restructure their lives by reaching compassionate and just resolutions to parenting and property disputes