

Good afternoon everyone. The Court continues to monitor local and national guidance related to the COVID-19 outbreak. We have provided guidance for the Domestic Relations Division and Juvenile Branch effective this morning as to how the Court will be handling business for the time being, but are also aware that the dynamics are constantly changing. We are actively working on updating and modifying this guidance should drastic changes to the situation come about.

Thank you.

With respect to facilities:

- All courtrooms and public counters or desk areas will have hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes readily available.
- Courtroom staff should attempt to wipe down surfaces after each hearing if time permits. Other staff shall wipe down any public counter or desk area around which they work several times throughout the workday.
- Aside from immediate family or caregivers on permitted visits, only medical personnel, psychologists, and attorneys shall be permitted access into the Juvenile Intervention Center (JIC)¹. All other persons shall be prohibited from entering until further notice.

- All family or caregivers who wish to visit youth in the JIC will be subject to additional screening and may be refused a visit or required to engage in additional preventative protocols.

With respect to the public:

- Any person entering a courtroom or public waiting area who exhibits signs of respiratory illness (coughing, wheezing) may be asked to leave the proceedings and have the scheduled hearing continued.
- Any party or attorney who has confirmed exposure to COVID-19 may seek a continuance of a court appearance until the party or attorney is medically cleared.
- Parties and attorneys are encouraged to arrange for remote video or teleconference appearances in lieu of personal appearances, if warranted and approved by the judge or magistrate. Any pretrial conference for which a personal appearance is not necessary may be conducted by conference call.

- Counsel shall file an appropriate motion with the court at least 72 hours in advance to effectuate the video or teleconference and shall communicate and coordinate with all other parties in advance.
- If a party is not represented by counsel, any counsel of record may offer to host that party at his or her office for the video or teleconference, provided conflicts of interest can be avoided.
- If *pro se* parties cannot attend via video or teleconference, they may be required to appear in person at the court, or the matter may be rescheduled by the court.

Thank you all.



William Sieloff

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