

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION

FILED
COMMON PLEAS COURT
MUSKINGUM CO. OHIO
2022 MAR - 1
9:00
WENDY L. BOWERS
CLERK
JUDGMENT ENTRY

IN RE: AMENDED ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

This Court has issued a number of Orders setting forth COVID-19 protocols for court access and operations since March, 2020.

Muskingum County is now listed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a "medium risk" area. The CDC issued updated guidance which recommended that people with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask if in a "medium risk" area.

Given the CDC's most current guidance, the Court's prior order is modified as follows: all employees and visitors who have symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 shall be required to wear masks inside the court building. This new mask mandate is effective immediately and will remain in place until further notice. The face mask or material shall cover the mouth and nose. Any person who violates or refuses to comply with this requirement will be denied entry or escorted from the building.

Filings will continue to be accepted via U.S. Mail filing, facsimile per Local Rule 6.01(a), and in-person filing. In-person hearings will be subject to continuing restrictions. Only parties, and counsel of record, will be permitted access at the scheduled time. Witnesses may not be permitted into the building until they are called to testify. Parties/counsel should have the ability to contact witnesses by phone or email when the court is ready. A maximum of ten people shall be permitted in the courtrooms – this includes court staff, counsel, parties, interpreters, and other necessary persons. All witnesses should remain outside of the building until called for their attendance.

Court staff shall ensure proper social distancing and occupancy requirements in the wait areas and other areas of the second floor. Social distance of at least six feet shall be strictly enforced. Conference rooms may be utilized as directed by Court staff; however, no more than three people shall be permitted in a conference room at any time. Court staff shall ensure compliance with this order and failure to comply with Court staff's direction shall constitute a public disruption and just cause for persons to be removed from the building.

If in-person mediations or meetings with the Court's Parenting Services Coordinator are deemed necessary by the appropriate Court staff, all guidelines set forth herein shall apply. In-person contact for purposes of drug testing shall be permitted.

This Order shall be served on the Supreme Court of Ohio, Muskingum County Board of Commissioners, Muskingum County Clerk of Court, and Muskingum County Bar Association and be posted on the website of this Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



MARIA N. KALIS, JUDGE