

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO

2020 DEC 17 PM 1:58

## IN RE: COVID-19 PROCEDURAL ORDER

- (1) The court has installed Plexiglass protection in the courtroom to protect all participants;
- (2) All individuals entering courtroom shall undergo temperature checks and wear facial coverings;
- (3) The court shall provide clear face shields to witnesses when testifying;
- (4) Jurors shall not use jury room but shall deliberate in the courtroom and have access to public restrooms during breaks;
- (5) The courtroom shall be disinfected daily and during the lunch breaks by court staff;
- (6) Witness chair and microphone shall be disinfected by court staff after each witness testifies;
- (7) Defendants at Pickaway County jail shall appear via live-stream for arraignments, change-of-pleas, and sentencing;
- (8) Social distancing of six-feet shall be maintained at all times;
- (9) Continuances of all trials shall be granted where counsel and/or litigants express concern for their safety due to COVID-19.
- (10) All domestic cases relations cases are subject to the Domestic Relations Court Pandemic Policy attached hereto.

It is so **ORDERED**.  
P. RANDALL KNECE, JUDGE

December 17, 2020

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
PICKAWAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
207 SOUTH COURT STREET, 2ND FLOOR  
CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO 43113

P. RANDALL KNECE, JUDGE

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Pickaway County Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations Division

COVID-19 Pandemic Policy: Effective May 1, 2020  
Revised December 16, 2020

In late March and April, 2020 the Pickaway County Domestic Relations Court conformed to Governor DeWine's COVID 19 Pandemic Guidelines and stopped holding in-person Court hearings except in essential matters. In May, the Domestic Relations Court began holding hearings in person with the following specific precautions being put in place:

1. Face covering shall be worn by every person entering the courtroom.
2. Witnesses shall remain outside the Courthouse until notified to enter the Courthouse by counsel's text message or telephone call. Once released by the Court after testimony, the witness shall leave the Courthouse. Witnesses shall not wait in the Courthouse lobby.
3. No one (i.e., friends, family members, etc.) shall wait in the Courthouse lobby.
4. Spectators, not directly participating in the hearing, may watch from the back of the courtroom only as social distancing guidelines will allow with the space that is available. There is room for a maximum of **six** people to sit in the back of the courtroom, however no more than ten people will be allowed in the entire courtroom including magistrate, counsel, litigants, witness and Guardian ad Litem, if applicable.

5. The litigants may sit at the counsel tables with counsel.
6. All persons entering the courtroom are subject to having their temperature taken.
7. Upon prior request by a party or counsel and in the court's discretion a pre-trial conference, oral GAL report or status conference may be held utilizing Microsoft Teams technology.
8. Upon prior request by a party or counsel and in the court's discretion an uncontested divorce hearing or an agreed final hearing in divorce may be held utilizing Microsoft Teams technology.
9. In cases where the final uncontested divorce hearing or agreed final hearing in divorce is held via Microsoft Teams technology, the final decree and all paperwork associated with that hearing shall be provided in hard copy to the court at least twenty-four hours in advance of the hearing time with original signatures included thereon.

**At this time, the Court will not require litigants nor counsel to appear in person for a hearing;** therefore, a timely filed Motion For Continuance will be accepted and granted. The terms of this policy are subject to change as the Pandemic environment changes.



Magistrate Rick Noble