

CHIEF JUDGE REUBEN M. GREEN

SUPERIOR COURT OF COBB COUNTY
COBB JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



SUPERIOR COURT OF COBB COUNTY
70 HAYNES STREET
MARIETTA, GEORGIA 30090
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Notice of Clarification:

Domestic Relations Custody Orders

for Visitation during Executive Shelter In Place Orders

Questions have arisen with respect to whether child visitation should continue during a shelter in place order necessitated by the Coronavirus / COVID - 19. The Governor issued an Executive Shelter in Place Order on April 2, 2020. On April 3, 2020, the Governor issued clarifying guidance regarding Judicial Orders. The clarifying guidance specified that the shelter in place does not “limit, infringe, suspend, or supplant any judicial order, judgement, or decree, including custodial arrangements.” It further provided that “‘Essential Services’ shall also include the transport, visitation, regular care of family members and persons dependent on the services of others, and similar actions that ensure the welfare and best interest of persons in the State of Georgia, specifically . . . children.”

In an effort to help the Family Law Bar to advise your clients, the Cobb Superior Court Judges unanimously agree that where an existing child visitation order is in place the parties should do their best to comply with the order. For such an order to be in place, a Superior Court Judge found that the visitation was in the best interest of the child(ren). Therefore, visitation with parents is an “Essential Service” and should continue during the Executive Shelter in Place Order. Parents should continue to follow the school calendar as if school was in session. Spring Break, holiday and summer visitations will continue to be governed by the controlling school calendar in the manner stated in the applicable custody order in each case.

This the 6th day of April, 2020

Reuben Green
Chief Judge, Superior Court
Cobb Judicial Circuit