

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION**

GENERAL ORDER: 2020 D 5

SUBJECT: Miscellaneous Procedures in Response to General Administrative Order
No. 2020-01

EFFECTIVE MARCH 17, 2020 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

To effectuate the goal of social distancing articulated in General Administrative Order No. 2020-01, the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County shall implement the following miscellaneous procedures until further Order of Court.

A. Suspended Services

1. **Emergency Intervention** – Family Mediation Services shall not conduct an Emergency Intervention.
2. **Custody Evaluation** – Family Mediation Services shall not conduct a Custody Evaluation.
3. **Joint-Simplified Dissolution of Marriage** – Unless brought as an emergency pursuant to the procedures set forth in General Order 2020 D 3, motions for entry of a Judgment for Joint-Simplified Dissolution of Marriage shall not be heard.

B. Review of Petitions for Waiver of Court Fees and Costs filed pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 298

1. A litigant shall submit her Petition for Waiver of Court Fees and Costs via email to rvp.domesticrelations@cookcountyil.gov.
2. Court staff shall transmit the Petition to the Emergency Judge scheduled to hear cases the following business day pursuant to General Administrative Order No. 2020-01.
3. The Emergency Judge shall then review the Petition and instruct court staff to email the litigant that either:
 - i. Her Petition has been granted,
 - ii. Her Petition has been denied, or
 - iii. She will be expected to appear and testify as to her qualifications for a fee waiver at a time and place designated in the emailed response.

C. Temporary Restraining Orders and Preliminary Injunctions

1. All Temporary Restraining Orders and Preliminary Injunctions scheduled to expire between March 17, 2020 and April 16, 2020 will be extended and returnable 30 days from the originally scheduled court date, unless the 30th day falls on a weekend, in which case it will be continued to the following business day.
2. All new requests for Temporary Restraining Orders will be ruled upon based on the pleadings filed and be returnable 30 days from the date that it is ruled upon,

unless the 30th day falls on a weekend, in which case it will be continued to the following business day.

3. Nothing contained in this Paragraph C shall limit the discretion of the Emergency Judge scheduled pursuant to General Administrative Order No. 2020-01 to override these procedures on a case by case basis.

D. Collaborative Entry of Orders

1. All Domestic Relations judges working remotely during this time shall be permitted to finalize orders in matters to which they are regularly assigned and transmit said order via email to rjp.domesticrelations@cookcountyil.gov.
2. Court staff shall then transmit the approved order to the Emergency Judge scheduled that business day pursuant to General Administrative Order No. 2020-01 for signature and transmission to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County.
3. The Emergency Judge shall indicate on the order that she is signing on behalf of the regularly assigned judge.
4. All motions related to orders entered in this manner shall be brought before the regularly assigned calendar judge, not the Emergency Judge after April 15, 2020.
5. Court staff shall then send the entered order to all parties or their attorneys if they are represented by counsel.

If the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County chooses to amend the terms of General Administrative Order No. 2020-01, including but not limited to the period of time of suspension of court operations, this General Order is subject to change.

Dated the ____th day of March 2020. This Order shall be spread upon the records of this Court and published.

ENTERED:



**HON. GRACE G. DICKLER
Presiding Judge
Domestic Relations Division**

**Presiding Judge
Grace G. Dickler**

MAR 16 2020

Circuit Court – 1521