

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

**GENERAL ORDER:** 2020 D 21

**SUBJECT:** Participation in Remote Court Proceedings

**EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

All attorneys, litigants, witnesses, and other remote court proceeding participants shall adhere to the following unless the judge presiding over the proceeding grants specific, temporary permission to behave otherwise:

1. No one other than the judge, court personnel or a certified court reporter shall take screenshots, record, or otherwise make an audio or visual record of the proceeding. Litigants and their attorneys are permitted to take notes of the proceeding as they would if the proceeding were conducted in person.
2. No minor child is permitted to be present during any portion of the proceeding (e.g. in the room or within earshot of the device used by the participant) unless the court finds it is impracticable to enforce this Paragraph and no reasonable alternative can be utilized.
3. At the commencement of every hearing, each participant shall identify every person in their presence as well as if/when anyone enters or leaves the room in which the participant is located.
4. If an Order to exclude witnesses has been entered, it is each party's obligation to ensure the Order is obeyed. The sanction for failure to do so may include, but not be limited to, barring the testimony of the witness and exercise of the Court's contempt power.
5. In light of the inherent difficulties in conducting hearings remotely, every participant shall use their best efforts to be courteous to one another, including but not limited to the following:
  - i. Not speak over one another;
  - ii. Insure to the best of their ability that they are in camera range at all times;
  - iii. Minimize background noise; and
  - iv. Silence their phones during the hearing.
6. No communication of any kind is permitted between a witness, including a party, during his testimony (from the time the witness takes the stand until the witness is excused) and any other person by any means (e.g. verbally, texts, email, use of private chat functions, etc.).

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Dated the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 2020. This Order shall be spread upon the records of this Court and be published.

**S\Judge Grace G. Dickler, # 1521**  
**HON. GRACE G. DICKLER**  
**Presiding Judge, Domestic Relations Division**