

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR  
THE COUNTIES OF MARTIN, ST. LUCIE, INDIAN RIVER AND OKEECHOBEE  
STATE OF FLORIDA

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-02**

**In Re: EMERGENCY TEMPORARY STANDING ORDER  
FOR DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of Florida has declared a state of emergency and has entered a “Safer At Home” Executive Order 20-91 and has announced that all schools will be closed to students until at least April 30, 2020 and that distance or virtual learning will begin in most schools; and

**WHEREAS**, since March 17, 2020, the Florida Supreme Court has issued various Emergency Administrative Orders, which authorize the chief judge of each judicial circuit to establish temporary procedures essential to the administration of justice for the use of communication equipment for the conducting of proceedings by remote electronic means, and to maintain judicial workflow to the maximum extent feasible; and

**WHEREAS**, the circuit judges currently presiding over domestic relations cases have requested the following directives; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, in order to facilitate the efficient administration of justice and pursuant to the authority of the Chief Judge under Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, I do hereby order the following, effective immediately:

**1. APPLICATION AND TERM OF THIS ORDER.**

This Order applies to domestic relations cases in the 19th Judicial Circuit and shall remain in full force and effect until Courts resume normal operations by termination of this Court's Administrative Order 2020-01, or the entry of a subsequent temporary order, whichever shall first occur.

**2. SHARED PARENTING AND TIMESHARING.**

a. For purposes of determining timesharing or exchange of a child(ren), a prior Court Order or Parenting Plan shall control. Nothing herein prevents parties from altering a timesharing schedule by agreement or from Courts modifying their orders on an emergency basis or otherwise.

b. Regular timesharing (per Parenting Plan) shall continue until the date the child's school announces the last day of school at which time summer timesharing shall begin. If a child's school has ended classes for the 2019-2020 school year, the summer timesharing incorporated into any current Final Judgment or current Order shall begin

immediately. Virtual education provided by the school shall be considered part of the school year and not be deemed commencement of the summer break until the recess has been announced by the child's school.

c. Video-conferencing and phone contact shall be honored as set forth in the parties' Parenting Plan and should be increased to "regular and consistent contact" to alleviate fears and concerns the child(ren) may be experiencing during this time.

### **3. EXCHANGES OF CHILDREN.**

If the parties cannot exchange their child(ren) at the previously agreed or ordered location or agree to an alternate location, the exchanges shall take place at the RaceTrac (gas/convenience station) closest to the parent's home where the child or children are located. The closest RaceTrac shall be determined by the distance shown on Google Maps, Apple Maps, or some other similar mapping program or website.

### **4. PROCEEDINGS & REMOTE HEARINGS.**

The Court may set a hearing at which the parties will be required to appear remotely in accord with Florida Supreme Court AOSC20-16 and AOSC20-17. Non-essential family hearings and court related proceedings (including mediation) may be conducted using remote technology. A parent participating in such a proceeding shall do so outside the presence and awareness of the child(ren). Any party seeking a continuance or objecting to a remote proceeding must file a motion, stating the position of the opposing party or counsel, in compliance with Rule 2.545(e). Scheduling hearings and trials shall be handled electronically or by email. Remote hearings shall be conducted using the presiding judge's Zoom Pro application, available at [www.Zoom.us](http://www.Zoom.us) by video or telephone. Each judge shall be contacted regarding his/her procedures and Zoom conferencing information and meeting code. Notices of hearing shall specify the nature of the hearing and the website or phone number to be utilized to allow attorneys, parties, witnesses and court reporters to participate. Information concerning proceedings, including instructions on participating in such proceedings and Zoom, can be found above, or on the presiding judge's page on the Circuit's website at [www.circuit19.org](http://www.circuit19.org).

**DONE AND ORDERED** at Stuart, Florida this 3rd day of April, 2020.



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LAWRENCE MIRMAN, CHIEF JUDGE