**LOGAN COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT**

**FAMILY COURT DIVISION**

 **DAN W. BRATKA, JUDGE KIM KELLOGG-MARTIN, JUDGE**

 **Natasha R. Kennedy, Magistrate Richard A. Meyer, Magistrate**

**MEMO**

TO: LOGAN COUNTY BAR MEMBERS

DATE: MARCH 13, 2020

RE: Family Court COVID-19 Communication Announcement

Dear Fellow Bar Members:

On behalf of Family Court, we wanted to reach out and let you all know that we have started working on COVID-19 planning as it relates to you and our court.  Over the past week, significant developments have occurred, such as Governor DeWine declaring a state of emergency and the first identified case of community spread COVID-19, occurring in another Ohio county.  Family Court is taking steps to help you and the general public during these challenging times.  We ask you as our colleagues and fellow bar members to help us with these efforts.

Security has been instructed to turn away anyone who presents with visible signs of illness or reports being sick. We have prepared an order that continues the hearing for public health and safety concerns. Security will screen the public and permit entry to those who have business to conduct.

In everyone’s best interest, our staff will be practicing social distancing, meaning staying six feet apart from one another.  Please understand that this is very important to do although we realize it can come across as awkward.  It is a basic and reasonable step to keep all of us healthy.

We also ask that you seriously consider conducting business with Family Court by phone as much as practical for pre-trials and status conferences.  You may receive more information on this in the coming days on matters like initiating the phone call and possible shifting of in-court hearings to phone conferences.  **Until then, it is business as usual for your attendance at hearings and trials.**

If you have an **absolute emergency** that prevents you from filing pleadings in Family Court, we will accept your pleadings via e:mail with the scanned pleadings attached. The point of contact is Chief Clerk Erin Stafford. Her email is estafford@co.logan.oh.us If you do not have the ability to email and attach scanned documents, please contact Clerk Stafford to make other arrangements.

This matter is changing and evolving as we send you this email.  We will stay in touch and keep you apprised of changes we may need to make.  We ask for your flexibility and assistance during this time of adjustment.  Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Judge Dan W. Bratka

Judge Kellogg-Martin