

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: 2020 D 21 Amended

SUBJECT: Participation in Remote Court Proceedings

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Presiding Judge
Grace G. Dickler
AUG 19 2020
Circuit Court – 1521

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. Email communication to court personnel and judges shall be limited to scheduling and administrative purposes and shall not include information relating to the substantive matters or the issues on the merits. If email communication includes any language that could be construed as impermissible *ex parte* communication, neither court personnel nor judges will respond to the email.
2. No one other than the judge, court personnel, or a certified court reporter shall take screenshots, record, broadcast, 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.
3. Only the judge or court personnel shall be the designated host of any remote court proceeding. If someone other than the judge or court personnel has set-up the remote court proceeding, he or she shall transfer the host capabilities of the remote proceeding to the judge or to court personnel at the start of the proceeding.
4. At all times, the judge or court personnel shall be in total control of the means of recording, regardless of platform, and may not delegate that control to any attorney, party or witness to the proceeding. If the hearing is recorded electronically by the judge, court personnel or a certified court reporter, all participants will be notified at the outset of the hearing that it is being recorded and the procedure for accessing the recording or the official record.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.).

Dated the ___ day of August 2020. This Order shall be spread upon the records of this Court and be published. This Order replaces Administrative Order 2020 D 21 Amended which was entered on July 2, 2020.

ENTERED:

S/Grace G. Dickler, #1521

HON. GRACE G. DICKLER
Presiding Judge
Domestic Relations Division