

## COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

These protocols will continue in effect until further notice.

During the duration of this order, the court may conduct limited in court, personal, proceedings. However, most proceedings will be completed through Zoom.

### **Courtroom Proceedings**

- The court shall conduct proceedings via electronic means, including Zoom video and/or audio conferences, Judge On-Line telephone conferences, and similar means.
- If, during a hearing, a need arises for a private conference between attorney and client, the court will terminate the hearing and allow the necessary individuals to confer in confidence outside of the electronic system by either passing the case or setting the matter for another date.

### **Scheduling/Status Conferences**

- The court will issue scheduling orders as soon as possible with trials set approximately 90-120 days from the date of the scheduling conference.
- The court retains its mediation requirement, unless excused by motion and order, and supports parties proactively scheduling mediation as soon as possible.

### **Divorce & Domestic Relations Matters**

- The court will take statutory proofs via Zoom if:
  - The Court has been provided with Judgment of Divorce to review or is able to provide one within 21 days of statutory proofs being taken.
  - The parties and attorneys waive having the case heard in open court.
- If a return of judgment date falls during the duration of this order, **and** the matter is contested, the attorneys or unrepresented parties shall notify the court's staff attorney (ohrynb@oakgov.com) as soon as possible. Otherwise, existing orders directing return of judgment remain in effect as drafted.

### **Juvenile Matters**

- Subject to the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court COVID-19 State of Emergency Procedures, and these protocols regarding emergency and non-emergency proceedings, the court will continue to hear matters as scheduled or review matters and issue orders, if appropriate.
- Parties seeking relief for juvenile matters shall follow the appropriate procedures on the Oakland County Circuit Court COVID-19 Court Information website (<https://www.oakgov.co/courts/circuit/resources/Pages/COVID-19-Court-Info.aspx>).
- The court may, if appropriate and in its discretion, refer a hearing to referee.

- The court encourages filings or position summations, by both the petitioner and respondent, in advance of any scheduled hearings.

#### **Personal Protection Orders and Emergency Motions:**

- Parties seeking emergency relief shall follow the appropriate procedures on the Oakland County Circuit Court COVID-19 Court Information website (<https://www.oakgov.co/courts/circuit/resources/Pages/COVID-19-Court-Info.aspx>).
- The court will follow the directives of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court COVID-19 State of Emergency Procedures.

#### **Non-Emergency Motions on Domestic Cases**

- Judge Cunningham is accepting praecipes during this time and are required.
- All non-emergency motions must include the email address of opposing counsel, or email addresses for unrepresented litigants, or they will not be accepted.
- The motion, praecipe, notice of hearing and a response must be filed properly before the Court will address hearing the motion.
- If the court determines it requires oral arguments, upon review of the motion information, it will issue an order directing the time and date of the oral argument along with directions for a virtual hearing. The court may also request briefing in lieu of oral arguments.
- While the Court has limited access, parties/attorneys should anticipate contact from the Friend of the Court or the Court with a time and date that the motion will be heard. Motions regarding custody, parenting time, and support will be initially heard by Friend of the Court. If the parties do not agree to the Recommendation, the Court will set a subsequent date and time for the parties to argue the motion before the Court.
- Domestic cases dated 2015 to present with the suffix DM, DC, DS, DP, and DZ, should utilize the e-filing system. If the case is prior to 2015 contact the Clerk's office to request that case be made e-file.

#### **Emergency Motions on Domestic Cases**

- Emergency Motions can be e-filed. Movants seeking emergency or ex parte relief should contact chambers staff prior to filing to ensure court staff has awareness of the motion being filed.

For e-filing details, please see <https://www.oakgov.com/clerkrod/court-records/Pages/efiling.aspx>

## **CHAMBERS CONTACT INFORMATION**

- Phone: (248) 858-0365 and (248) 701-9656
- Clerk emails: [essaki@oakgov.com](mailto:essaki@oakgov.com); [robertsh@oakgov.com](mailto:robertsh@oakgov.com)
- Staff Attorney email: [ohryn@oakgov.com](mailto:ohryn@oakgov.com)
- Judicial Secretary email: [russ@oakgov.com](mailto:russ@oakgov.com)

### **Zoom Room 21**

- Direct Link: <https://misc.oakgov.zoom.us/j/jacobcunningham>
- From browser: [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) - > 248 858 0365
- From telephone: (646) 876-9923 - > 2488580365
- From h.323: 162.255.37.11##2488580365
- From iOS/Android: Download Zoom from App Store

**Please note that you will be placed in a waiting room until your case is ready to call.**

**This will happen when there is another case being heard or until all parties have joined.**