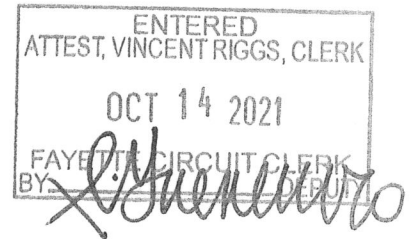


COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
FAYETTE CIRCUIT COURT  
FAMILY COURT



**IN RE: COVID-19 PARTIAL RE-OPENING FOR REGULAR DOCKET CALLS**

**AMENDED ORDER**

Pursuant to Supreme Court Order 2021-16 and 2021-17 the Fayette Circuit Family Court finds the following rules and procedures to be necessary to comply with, and fulfill the spirit of, said Order. Where these Orders conflict with Fayette County Local Rules these Orders shall prevail. These Orders shall go into effect on Oct. 14, 2021 and replace all prior COVID-19 related standing orders of this Court.

It is **HEREBY ORDERED:**

**Civil Motion Hour:**

1. Shall continue to be held remotely via Zoom pending further Orders of this Court. Any party who is unable to appear remotely may appear in-person and will be provided electronic access to the proceedings so long as they meet facility health and safety requirements.
2. All Motions shall be filed no later than 4:00 pm ten (10) days prior to motion hour. (4:00 pm Wednesday of the week PRIOR to the motion hour to be heard)
3. All Responses shall be filed no later than 4:00 pm four (4) days prior to motion hour. (4:00 pm Tuesday of the week of Motion Hour.)
4. All Replies shall be filed no later than 12:00 pm (noon) one day prior to Motion Hour. (12:00 on Thursday)
5. Sur Replies or additional pleadings shall not be accepted without special leave of the Court.

6. The same time requirements shall apply to any additional Motion Hour Dockets that may be scheduled in the Court's discretion unless otherwise Ordered.
7. Ruling on the Pleadings: If parties are represented by counsel, all motions, responses and replies shall be adequately pled to allow for ruling without additional testimony where appropriate. After review of the pleadings, the Court may notify the parties of a preliminary ruling, either by email or docket entry; the preliminary ruling may include, but is not limited to, a preliminary ruling on the motion, or a referral to mediation, or direction to schedule a Case Management Conference with the Court. Upon receipt of the preliminary ruling, if any of the parties disagrees with the preliminary ruling, they shall advise the Court if they require a hearing or if they have additional pleadings to file within the filing times outlined above. If additional pleadings are filed, the Court shall consider the new pleadings and issue a preliminary ruling that may remain the same or be amended. There will be no additional email contact with the Court regarding the merits of the matter. If no party objects to the preliminary ruling within two (2) days of the Court's notice of the preliminary ruling, the Court will enter an order consistent with the preliminary ruling. If any of the parties object to the preliminary ruling, or if any party is proceeding *pro se*, the matter will be addressed at Motion Hour as noticed or at the Court's next scheduled Motion Hour.
8. The Court shall have discretion to prioritize special hearings as deemed appropriate in light of current SC Orders, Executive Orders and CDC guidelines.
9. Parties shall continue to utilize electronic filing when possible. Filings will also be accepted via the Drop Box at the Fayette District Court building, mail, or by traditional filing with the Fayette Circuit and District Courts.

**Civil Hearings and Case Management Conferences:**

1. All matters requiring a case management conference or hearing shall be set by the Court and participation electronically or in-person shall be within the sole discretion of the Court in compliance with current SCOs.

**Dependency, Neglect and Abuse (DNA):**

1. All DNA dockets shall be held via Zoom, at their regularly scheduled times, pending further orders of the Court. All parties, attorneys, social workers, CASAs and other necessary parties or participants shall appear via Zoom. Appointed attorneys shall make every effort to assist their clients in appearing remotely, be it by the attorney's speaker phone or by providing the clients with the Zoom link and information per Court instructions.

**Domestic Violence:**

1. Domestic Violence victims shall continue to have access to the filing of petitions at the Fayette Circuit Court twenty-four hours a day seven days a week.
2. All Domestic Violence dockets will continue to be heard in-person as scheduled Monday — Thursday at 8:30 am pursuant to SCO 2021-16.
3. Any party who meets the requirements of SCO 2021-16 shall be allowed to participate remotely via electronic means. These parties shall contact the Court no later than 3:00 pm on the day prior to their scheduled court date for permission and information on how to participate remotely.
4. All in-custody contempt hearings for Domestic Violence cases shall be held on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm via Zoom until further Orders of the Court.

**County Attorney Child Support/Paternity:**

1. Each Division will continue to hear contested motions on the County Attorney Child Support Enforcement and Paternity Dockets one time per month on a day and time designated by each Division. These "To Be Heard" dockets shall continue to be held remotely via Zoom at the time specified by each Division. A re-occurring Zoom link for each division will be supplied to the County Attorney's office who shall include this information in their Court Notices and provide the same to necessary parties.
2. All routine matters that can be handled remotely or electronically should be.
3. Respondents may appear in-person for case conferencing in the Fayette Circuit Court multi-purpose room. Any respondent who wishes to appear electronically shall make arrangements with the Fayette County Attorney's office in advance of their scheduled Court Date.
4. The Fayette County Attorney's office shall be responsible for coordinating with the Fayette Circuit Court Clerk regarding the scheduling and docketing of all cases.
5. All in-custody contempt hearings in Child Support/Paternity cases shall be heard in person on Thursday afternoons at 3:00.

Entered this 13 day of, Oct, 2021

  
Chief Judge, Fayette Circuit Court