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**KITSAP COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

ALISON H. SONNTAG

IN RE THE KITSAP COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND THE
PANDEMIC OUTBREAK OF THE CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

No. 2020-16

**EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
RE: SECOND ORDER REGARDING
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES**


THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER is being issued in response to the current pandemic outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Given the significant number of identified and projected cases of the disease in Washington, the severity of the risk posed to the public, the recommendations of the Health District, Governor Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" Orders and the authority granted by Supreme Court Orders 25700-B-602, 25700-B-606 and 25700-B-607, the current situation demands immediate action by the Courts.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED that effective immediately and until further Order of the Court –

- 1.) **Kitsap County Local Family Law Rule 10 – Mandatory Parenting Seminar.** This rule is suspended for no / low conflict cases in which there are agreed / unopposed Parenting Plans, until further order of the court.
- 2.) Kitsap County Superior Court adopts the attached "**COVID-19 Family Law Information Sheet**" to serve as guidance for both the Bar and the Bench as to the expectations of parental conduct.

DATED – APRIL 7, 2020



KEVIN D. HULL, Presiding Judge
Kitsap County Superior Court

COVID-19 FAMILY LAW INFORMATION SHEET

ALL FAMILY LAW ORDERS MUST BE FOLLOWED

This includes:

- Parenting Plans
- Restraining Orders
- Child Support Orders, and
- Any other temporary or final order signed by a judicial officer.

PARENTING PLANS MUST BE FOLLOWED

Court-ordered parenting time must be followed and permitted where possible. **CHILD EXCHANGES ARE ESSENTIAL.**

- **Spring/Summer Break, Vacation and/or Holidays:**
Parents shall follow the holiday and school break residential schedules in place at the beginning of the school year as initially published on the specific school district's website. Summer break shall not commence until the end of the now virtual school year, as determined by the specific applicable school district.
- **Parenting Time in Public Places:**
Governor Inslee has forbidden all nonessential gatherings, regardless of size. If the parenting plan states that parenting time will occur in a public place, parenting time should continue at locations that are permitted under the health and safety guidelines for Washington, such as a large park or nature hike. If that is not possible, then the parenting time should be conducted virtually via videoconferencing or by telephone.
- **Supervised Parenting Time:**
If parenting time is ordered to be supervised, and the supervisor is unavailable due to COVID-19-related issues or government orders, the parties should work collaboratively to ensure parenting time continues to occur in a manner that promotes their children's safety and wellbeing, such as finding an alternative supervisor. If that is not possible, then the parenting time should be conducted virtually via videoconferencing or by telephone, and the primary parent may remain present during the virtual visit in lieu of supervision but shall not interrupt the visit unless necessary for the safety and welfare of the children.
- **Parenting Plan Impossible to Follow:**
In those limited circumstances where parenting time cannot be followed, for example because the exchange requires the child to fly to the other parent and the airline has cancelled those flights, parents should liberally allow the other parent access to the child through via videoconferencing or by telephone.

- **Exchanges “after school” or “at school”:**
If your child is not attending school on campus and it is an exchange day, communicate with the other parent and find an agreed upon exchange time and location. If no other time is specified in writing, use the approximate time school would have been out (for example, 3:00 p.m.). If you can’t exchange the child at someone’s home, find a public place as close to the child’s school as possible to make the exchange.
- **Sick Child:**
If your child is sick with something “regular” (not requiring emergency medical assistance or COVID-19 symptoms), the child should be exchanged at regular parenting times unless your parenting plan states that a sick child stays with one parent, or the parents otherwise agree.
- **Other Parent is not Protective:**
You may feel the other parent is not following social distancing guidelines or not following a structured schedule that you have set up in your home, this is not a basis to withhold parenting time. As a general rule, each parent is able to use their own good judgment about what to do when they have the child, so long as their actions are not violating the law.
- **Make-up Time:**
Make-up time may be requested by a parent whose parenting time has been impacted due to COVID-19 related issues once the court’s regular schedule is resumed. Parents are encouraged to come to agreements on make-up time on their own prior to filing a motions with the court.