**Lorain County Court Of Common Pleas**

Domestic Relations Division

Lorain County Justice Center (440) 329-5360 Elyria

225 Court Street, 4th Floor (440) 329-5232 Fax

Elyria, Ohio 44035

April 3, 2020 AMENDED 2020MISC

Pursuant to Sup.R. 5(A)(2), the Court finds that due to the national, state, and local declarations of emergency because of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, there is an immediate need to temporarily amend the following local rules without prior notice and opportunity for comment. Consistent with the Court’s Administrative Orders, The Lorain County Domestic Relations Court, Domestic Relations Division, herewith temporarily amends the following Local Rules of Court as noted effective Monday, April 6, 2020. A copy of this Rule will be filed with the Supreme Court of Ohio in accordance with Superintendence Rule 5. The court will provide appropriate notice and an opportunity to comment on this rule pursuant to Superintendence Rule 5 contemporaneously with this adoption.

**Local Rule 5: PLEADINGS AND MOTIONS**

(C) FACSIMILE FILINGS (2) FILINGS NOT ACCEPTED: Except for journal entries which must be signed by a judge or magistrate, this rule authorizes the filing of facsimile transmission of pleadings, motions, and other documents that may otherwise be filed with the Clerk of Courts.

(C)(3) COMMENCEMENT OF AN ACTION (replacing (C)(2)(a) and (b))

Any filing commencing an action (e.g., a complaint, a third party complaint, a post-decree motion, a motion for injunctive relief) for which the Clerk of Courts must collect an initial case deposit against costs or a specific filing fee and/or which the Clerk of Courts is required to effectuate service or summons, will not be time-stamped or registered until the Clerk of Courts receives payment of the appropriate court cost deposit or waiver thereof. Filings that require service will be charged an additional fee commensurate with the cost to copy and serve. ***If payment or waiver is not received by the close of the next business day, the filing will be discarded and treated as not having been received.***

**Local Rule 8: PARENTING SEMINAR**

(A)All parties filing initial actions in which there are minor children shall attend an educational seminar for parents sponsored or approved by the court. The court is requiring all parties to complete the on-line parenting course at this time due to the public health emergency, which can be found at <https://www.divorce-education.com/oh/lorain/>

**Local Rule 11: EX PARTE ORDER PRACTICE**

The court temporarily suspends Rule 11(A), (D) and (E). Any ex parte motion filed during this time shall comply with the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure.

**Local Rule 13: CASE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES; 13(A) CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, 13(B) STATUS CONFERENCE, 13(C) SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE, 13(D) FINAL PRE–TRIAL**

The court hereby amends the aforementioned local rules so that wherever counsel and/or the parties are required to appear before the court, the parties and/or counsel may appear by telephone conference, video conference, or other available technological means.

**Rule 17: CONTINUANCES**

The court temporarily supplements this rule to include the following; The public health emergency, due to the coronavirus pandemic, may be considered a finding of “just cause” for continuances deemed necessary by the assigned judge on a case-by-case basis.

**Rule 22: DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE**

The court hereby amends this rule to read the following: At the time of the Final Hearing, both spouses shall appear before the court and each spouse shall acknowledge, under oath, that they have voluntarily entered into the Separation Agreement attached to the Judgment Entry for Dissolution.

Frank J. Janik, Administrative Judge

Lorain County Domestic Relations Court

Lisa I. Swenski, Judge

Lorain County Domestic Relations Court

Sherry L. Glass, Judge

Lorain County Domestic Relations Court