

Lorain County Domestic Relations/Juvenile Court COVID-19 Safety Procedure & Protocol

The Lorain County Domestic Relations/Juvenile Court is committed to maintaining your safety and ours while seeing that justice is served and your rights are preserved. For the safety of all involved, the Domestic Relations Court/Juvenile Court (located on the 2nd and 4th floors of the Lorain County Justice Center) is primarily and preferably conducting hearings remotely through the use of Zoom.us and NOT in-person. There are some exceptions based on the nature of the case or hearing scheduled. If you have been sent a summons/notice to appear for a hearing, your summons/notice should indicate whether it will be held by Zoom.us or in-person. If your summons/notice indicates that you are to appear in-person, please be aware of the following:

- MASKS (face/nose) are required to be worn while in the Lorain County Justice Center.
- You will be subject to a brief SCREENING which includes your temperature being taken with a touchless, infrared thermometer and health screening questions from the Ohio Department of Health prior to entering into any Domestic Relations Court and /or Juvenile Court areas or courtrooms
- Appropriate SOCIAL DISTANCING must be adhered to in all areas of the Domestic Relations/Juvenile Court.
- On the day of the hearing, if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, **we ask that YOU DO NOT** come to the Lorain Justice Center. Please call **(440) 329-5187** instead:
 - fever within the 3 days immediately before your hearing (temperature of 100.4 or higher without the use of fever-reducing medication),
 - cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing,
 - chills, muscle pain,
 - sore throat,
 - loss of smell or taste,
 - vomiting or diarrhea
 - OR if you have been in direct contact with someone known or presumed to have COVID-19 within the 14 days immediately before your hearing.

If you do appear for a Lorain County Domestic Relations Court hearing or Juvenile Court hearing and are experiencing any of the above, you will be sent out of the building. If you are unable to physically participate at the Lorain County Justice Center for a Domestic Relations or

Juvenile Court matter because of the above, alternative arrangements such as participating by Zoom.us or by some other means will be made or your case may be rescheduled.

PARTICIPATING BY ZOOM.US

If you are participating by Zoom.us, you can use a smart phone, tablet or computer to participate. If using a smart phone or tablet, please download the Zoom.us meeting app prior to your hearing. If using a computer, please join the hearing by going to www.zoom.us. At the time specified on your summons, please join the hearing using the meeting ID provided to you. You will be placed in a virtual waiting room and invited into the hearing when the Court is ready for you. If you do not have access to www.Zoom.us on a computer or mobile device, you may participate by phone by calling the Zoom.us phone number provided to you and entering the meeting ID number. If you are experiencing technical difficulties and are unable to log in, please let the court know by calling **(440) 329-5187**. Log in on time and from an appropriately private location. Please be patient while in the virtual waiting room as sometimes hearings take longer than expected.

If you appear in-person for a Domestic Relations or Juvenile Court hearing, please be advised that the court and its staff members are following all Health Department guidelines and will be ensuring that those entering our court areas and courtrooms are in compliance as well. The court will monitor and regulate appropriate social distancing and ensure regular cleaning and disinfecting of our hearing rooms. If the court is over-capacity for appropriate social distancing or if persons other than necessary parties appear at the courthouse, individuals may be required to wait at a different location outside of the Domestic Relations/Juvenile Court areas until it is time for the hearing or until space is available.

If you have GENERAL questions regarding the above information, please call (440) 329-5187. If, however, you have questions or concerns regarding the above PROTOCOL, please contact the Court Administrator's Office at (440)329-5360.

Thank you for your cooperation during this time. Stay safe, happy & healthy.