

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, BLAIR COUNTY
24TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

IN RE: 24TH Judicial District –

Supreme Court
No. 20 WM 2020

DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

Blair County No.:
No. 2020 MD 0003

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

**CUSTODY PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT THE GOVERNOR ISSUES A
“SHELTER-IN PLACE” ORDER**

AND NOW, this 23rd day of March, 2020, pursuant to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s Order of March 18, 2020 and the individual Judicial Emergency declared in Blair County by President Judge Elizabeth A. Doyle, the court hereby **ORDERS, DIRECTS** and **DECREES** as follows:

1. The Court of Common Pleas of Blair County recognizes that the ramifications of the COVID-19 virus and any directives of the Governor of Pennsylvania or the President of the United States that result from the virus may place obstacles on the exchange of custody of minor children in Blair County. We expect parties to act reasonably with each other and understand that our current national situation may, in some instances, result in the need for video applications or telephone calls to replace periods of partial custody. However, notwithstanding the current situation, to the extent permitted by the Governor of the Commonwealth and the current situation we expect parties to engage in reasonable measures to comply

with controlling orders of court in Blair County custody matters including the transfer of custody of children.

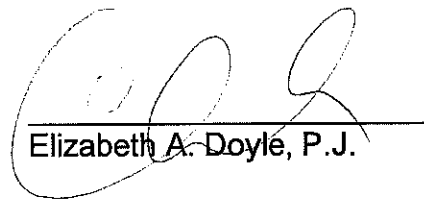
2. In the event the Governor of Pennsylvania or other member of the Executive Branch of the Government of this Commonwealth or the United States of America, issues a "shelter-in-place" or other similar order barring the citizens of the Commonwealth or the nation from leaving their residences or place of abode for any reason other than an emergency, the following shall apply to all cases operating under custody order:

- a. Children shall remain in the care of their primary custodian during the period of the order.
- b. In cases involving shared 50%-50% physical custody, children shall remain with the party with whom they are currently physically with at the time the order takes effect. In a shared custody order where one party has more than 50% shared custody, they are the primary custodian for purposes of this order only.
- c. The elimination of custody exchanges shall occur at the time the Governor's or other authority's order takes effect and shall remain in effect until the Governor's or other authority's order is lifted or modified.
- d. Whatever party has physical custody of the child/children shall make every effort to allow communication to the other party or parties who do not have physical custody throughout the duration of the

Governor's order by means of telephone, video communication and/or text messaging.

- e. Any party who is precluded from any communication whatsoever with their children by the actions of the other party during such emergency order may file a petition with the court.
3. This administrative order shall be effective as of **March 23, 2020** and shall continue in effect until further order of this court.

BY THE COURT:



Elizabeth A. Doyle, P.J.