



Domestic Relations Spotlight



May 22, 2020

REMINDER TO ATTORNEYS AND PARTIES WHEN COMING TO COURT

Parties and attorneys should NOT arrive early for court appearances. You should arrive not more than 5 minutes before your scheduled dissolution hearing or non-contested divorce hearing and attorneys should advise the parties of the same.

There will be no conference rooms available for attorneys to meet with clients or for parties to use to prepare for hearings. Attorneys and parties should go over all paperwork and obtain any signatures prior to coming to court.

On dissolution and non-contested divorce days, only attorneys and parties are permitted on the floor. One witness is allowed for non-contested divorces. All others not a party or witness will have to leave the floor and wait outside or in their cars.

These changes were previously discussed in the April 29, 2020 Domestic Relations Spotlight published prior to our May 4, 2020 return to Court. All of the changes which were identified in that Spotlight will remain in effect. Attorneys and their parties are strongly encouraged to wear masks.

COURT MEDIATION CHANGES

The Montgomery County Domestic Relations Court is planning on scheduling the mediations which were requested and/or continued over the past couple of months, beginning in the middle of June. The mediations will take place in the Court's conference room and plexiglass partitions have been added to comply with distancing and safety requirements. The court is taking necessary precautions to keep everyone safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you or your clients are feeling ill, have a temperature, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last two weeks, please contact the mediation department to discuss alternatives.

Attorneys should tell their clients not to bring other people with them. If attorneys choose to appear for these mediation sessions, they will need to sit outside of the conference room due to space limitations and to adhere to distancing requirements. Attorneys must notify the opposing counsel or party and call the mediation department at least ten days prior to the scheduled mediation, so that each party has an opportunity to bring their attorney if they so choose. The parties will be free to consult with their attorney as needed.

Domestic Relations Spotlight
May 22, 2020

Please encourage your clients to provide the mediation department with their phone numbers and e-mail addresses, which are more important now than ever. This information may be e-mailed to MediationConfRoom@mcoho.org. Mediations may be conducted remotely using GoToMeeting, if a party requests a remote mediation and if the court is able to accommodate the parties on the scheduled date. The other party will then have the option of either coming in to Court or mediating remotely. A request for a remote mediation should be made at least ten days prior to the scheduled mediation.

TRANSCRIPTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE BY EITHER CD-ROM OR WIN-ZIP

In addition to requesting transcripts by a CD-Rom, the Court now has the ability to send copies of a transcript to attorneys or self represented parties by WinZip. The WinZip copies would be sent by e-mail and will include instructions for "How to Unzip Files".

If a Win-Zip file is requested, then attorneys and parties would not have to come to Court to pick up a CD-Rom. They would still need to take a written request to the Clerk of Courts and pay \$2.25 for the CD-Rom or WinZip, as you would choose on the request form. You will need to provide your e-mail address on the request form if you are requesting a WinZip file.

DISCLAIMER: The content of this Domestic Relations Spotlight is directed solely to attorneys and only intended to be informational and to assist those attorneys who practice in the Montgomery County Domestic Relations Court. This e-mail is not intended to provide legal advice or any information which would relate to any other courts in any other counties or to anyone who may be a party or witness to a case pending in this or any other court.

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS E-MAIL. Replies to this e-mail will not be received. If you have any questions concerning the contents of this e-mail or if you want to unsubscribe from receipt of this e-mail message, you should contact the Montgomery County Domestic Relations Court at (937) 225-4063 and ask to talk with the Legal Administrator, Keith R. Hall.