

18<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
EMERGENCY STANDING ORDER  
(ISSUED MARCH 19, 2020)

SUMNER COUNTY STANDING ORDER REGARDING POSSESSION SCHEDULE  
DURING SCHOOL CLOSURES

This order is a standing order of the Sumner County Circuit, Chancery and General Sessions, Div. II Courts that applies to every temporary or permanent parenting plan (hereinafter “parenting plan”) currently in force. Hereinafter “child” refers to a child or children the subject of a court order. IT IS ORDERED THAT:

For purposes of determining a person’s right to possession and access to a child under a court-ordered parenting plan schedule, the original published school schedule shall control in all instances. Possession and access shall not be affected by the school’s closure that arises from the COVID-19 Pandemic. A person currently in possession of the child who is not entitled to possession of the child under the original published school schedule SHALL immediately return the child to the person entitled to possession under that schedule.

Example A: If a person had possession of the child for Spring Break, but the school has cancelled classes for the week following Spring Break, that person is NOT entitled to possession of the child. That person MUST return the child as if school had resumed following the Spring Break vacation as set out in the original published school schedule.

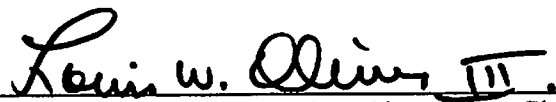
Example B: If a person has the right to possession of the child on Thursdays during the regular school term, that person is still entitled to that possession while the school is closed, until the regular school term ends, based on the original published school schedule.

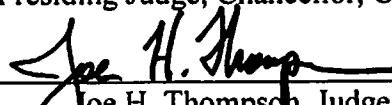
This standing order shall not affect agreed temporary modifications reached by the parties when acting in the best interests of their children.

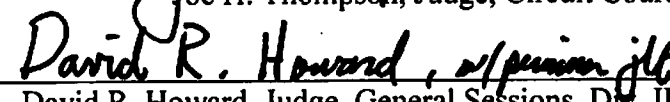
This standing order does not address summer parenting schedules. If it becomes necessary to address this issue, additional guidance will be issued.

WARNING TO PARTIES: FAILURE TO OBEY A COURT ORDER FOR POSSESSION OF OUR ACCESS TO A CHILD MAY RESULT IN FURTHER LITIGATION TO ENFORCE THE ORDER, INCLUDING CONTEMPT OF COURT.

Entered this 19th day of March, 2020.

  
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Louis Oliver, III, Presiding Judge, Chancellor, Chancery Court

  
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Joe H. Thompson, Judge, Circuit Court

  
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David R. Howard, Judge, General Sessions, Div. II