

16th JUDICIAL DISTRICT STANDING ORDER REGARDING PARENTING TIME
DURING AN EPIDEMIC OR PANDEMIC

(Issued April 3, 2020)

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JOHN A.W. BRATCHER
CLERK AND MASTER

This Order is a Standing Order of the 16th Judicial District that applies to every suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed in the 16th Judicial District, including any closed or pending cases, with any form of court ordered parenting time (both temporary and permanent). In furtherance of the Court's Order issued March 26, 2020 **IT IS ORDERED:**

Executive Order Number 23, issued by Governor Bill Lee on April 2, 2020 **DOES NOT** affect, in any way, parenting time, physical custody or parenting plans in the state of Tennessee. Specifically, Governor Lee's Executive Order Number 22, paragraph 9, subsection (f) specifically provides: "[t]ravel ... to transport children pursuant to a custody agreement" is "essential travel". Said Executive Order was not a "shelter-in-place" or "lockdown" order and all parents **SHALL** comply with their court-ordered parenting schedule originally published. Any parent who has wrongfully removed a child or children from the other parent **SHALL IMMEDIATELY** return the child/children to the parent entitled to parenting time and physical custody under the parenting schedule.

WARNING TO ALL PARTIES: FAILURE TO OBEY A COURT ORDER FOR VISITATION OF OR ACCESS TO A CHILD MAY RESULT IN FURTHER LITIGATION TO ENFORCE THE ORDER, INCLUDING CONTEMPT OF COURT. A FINDING OF CONTEMPT MAY BE PUNISHABLE BY CONFINEMENT IN JAIL FOR UP TO 10 DAYS, A FINE OF UP TO \$50.00 FOR EACH VIOLATION, AND A MONETARY JUDGMENT FOR PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COURT COSTS.

Entered this the 3rd day of April, 2020.


J. Mark Rogers, Circuit Court Judge


Darrell L. Scarlett, Circuit Court Judge


Don R. Ash, Senior Judge