



PARENTING TIME DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Should I allow parenting time/visitation?

If you have a Court order, you must follow it. If the parenting time requires travel, you must make reasonable efforts to allow visitation. If you run into problems, keep the other parent up to date. The Governor's stay in place order specifically permits transportation for custody and/or visitation.

If you have concerns for the health of your child, contact the other parent and try to work something out. This could be making-up parenting time in the future or resolving the health or safety concerns.

As the COVID-19 directives from the state could change during this time, please keep in mind that you should always follow the law and the Governor's mandates.



What happens if a contempt action is filed?

If you can't reach an agreement to change visitation, the other parent could file for contempt. If contempt is filed, you may have a defense if you can show special circumstances in your situation. These may include that your child was sick or had a compromised immune system that required quarantine. It may also include if someone in the other parent's household is sick. If someone in either household is in a high-risk group of contracting the virus such as a health care worker this could be a reason for not giving visitation.

If contempt is filed against you and you have limited income and assets, you may have the right to court appointed counsel. You should request a form to ask for an attorney from the Clerk's office where your case is being heard. If you are found in contempt of court, you could be ordered to provide make-up parenting time and/or subject to fines and/or jail time.

For more information:

SEOLS: 1-833-288-2936

FRANKLIN & MADISON: Call (614) 241-2001 or Toll Free 1-888-246-4420

DELAWARE, MARION, MORROW, & UNION—Call (740) 383-2161 or Toll Free
1-888-301-2411

Additional COVID-19 Resources:

For more information regarding the state’s response to COVID-19 visit the governor’s website at coronavirus.ohio.gov. For information regarding federal responses to the COVID-19, please visit the CDC’s website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

For financial help, you should contact FEMA at (202) 646-2500.

For legal help for these issues, please contact your local Legal Aid:

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The Legal Aid Society of Columbus and Southeastern Ohio Legal Services provide free legal services for low-income Ohioans and seniors. Intake lines are open 9:00am-3:30pm Monday-Friday at 614.241.2001 (Central Ohio) or 1.833.288.2936 (Southeastern Ohio).

Legal Aid does not discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, disability, age, ancestry, or military status in admission, treatment, or participation in our programs, services and activities, or in our hiring and employment practices

