

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

**STANDING ORDER # 2
FILINGS DURING THE
COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that a novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) presents a serious public health threat, and this threat is affecting Delaware;

WHEREAS, the President of the United States of America, has declared a National State of Emergency due to the public health threat caused by COVID-19;

WHEREAS, under his authority set forth in 20 *Del. C.* ch. 31, Governor John C. Carney declared a State of Emergency for the State of Delaware due to the public health threat caused by COVID-19;

WHEREAS, under 10 *Del. C.* § 2004, the Chief Justice, in consultation with other members of the Supreme Court, declared a judicial emergency that went into effect on March 16, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. and that will continue for 30 days, subject to further review;

WHEREAS, in the interest of protecting litigants, practitioners, court staff, and the public, the Family Court of Delaware has implemented, and will continue to implement, certain precautionary measures;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is **HEREBY ORDERED,** this **20th** day of **March 2020**, that the Family Court will implement the following precautionary measures related to filings, which will remain in place until further order of the Court:

1. As related to Family Court filings, unsworn declarations may be used in lieu of verifications, sworn declarations, affidavits and notarized signatures. Family Court Form 677 (available at <https://courts.delaware.gov/forms/>) may be used with any filing that is submitted without being notarized.

2. The Court will accept emergency civil filings via email. Emergency filings, defined below, should be emailed to FC_COVID19@delaware.gov. For filings sent to Family Court via this email, parties may use an electronic signature when signing their documents. The electronic signature shall be in the following form: /s/Your Name.

Emergency filings include those related to:

- (a) Protection from Abuse proceedings;
- (b) Any filing related to a dependency/neglect matter; and
- (c) Custody/Visitation/Guardianship filings if accompanied by a Motion and Affidavit for Emergency Ex Parte Order or a Motion and Affidavit for Priority Scheduling.

3. To limit person-to-person contact, non-emergency civil filings may be mailed to the Family Court at any of the below addresses. Self-represented litigants are reminded that forms and information are available 24 hours a day on the Family Court website at <https://courts.delaware.gov/family/>

Family Court – New Castle County Leonard L. Williams Justice Center 500 N. King Street Wilmington, DE 19801	Family Court – Kent County 400 Court Street Dover, DE 19901	Family Court – Sussex County 22 The Circle Georgetown, DE 19947
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4. If you have questions about an upcoming civil or criminal hearing in Family Court, please call the Family Court Call Center at 302-255-0300.



Chief Judge Michael K. Newell