

**16<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT STANDING ORDER REGARDING PARENTING TIME  
DURING AN EPIDEMIC OR PANDEMIC**

(Issued April 3, 2020)

This Order is a Standing Order of the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District that applies to every suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed in the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2020.

  
J. Mark Rogers, Circuit Court Judge

  
Darrell L. Scarlett, Circuit Court Judge

  
Don R. Ash, Senior Judge