

**DALLAS COUNTY FAMILY DISTRICT COURT
EMERGENCY STANDING ORDER
(Issued March 17, 2020)**

**DALLAS COUNTY STANDING ORDER REGARDING POSSESSION SCHEDULE
DURING SCHOOL CLOSURES**

This order is a standing order of the Dallas County Family District Courts that applies in every suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed in Dallas County. This includes any pending divorce case with children. 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 possession 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 an epidemic or pandemic, including but not limited to, what is commonly referred to as 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.

Example C: In the event closures of school continue through summer, the parties shall follow the original published school schedule for the purposes of selecting and exercising their Extended Summer Possession.

WARNING TO PARTIES: FAILURE TO OBEY A COURT ORDER FOR POSSESSION 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 SIX MONTHS, A FINE OF UP TO \$500 FOR EACH VIOLATION, AND A MONEY JUDGMENT FOR PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COURT COSTS.

SIGNED THIS THE 17TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020.



HON. MARY BROWN, PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE 301ST DISTRICT COURT
SIGNED ON BEHALF OF

HON. ASHLEY WYSOCKI, PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE 254TH DISTRICT COURT

HON. KIM COOKS, PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE 255TH DISTRICT COURT

HON. DAVID LOPEZ, PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE 256TH DISTRICT COURT

HON. SANDRA JACKSON, PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE 302ND DISTRICT COURT

HON. DENNISE GARCIA, PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE 303RD DISTRICT COURT

HON. ANDREA PLUMLEE, PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE 330TH DISTRICT COURT