

SCLGR 19 REMOTE PROCEEDINGS

Comments

Commenter: Family Support Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys

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Comment:

A few DPAs in Family Support expressed concern about remote proceedings. Specifically, on contempt cases in-person hearings effectuate getting non-compliant parents into custody and in all proceedings, we wondered when parties and/or counsel request permission to appear remotely-- will that be by Motion so we can object if we need to? As the Court is aware, the Family Support Division deals with many pro se litigants. There's been procedural struggles to get orders signed by parties and there's been no time limit on the timeframe allowable to enter the order after the hearing. Can we please suggest a time limit for orders to enter before the drafting party sends in the proposed order (and lets the court know of the non-responsiveness of the opposing party) and /or moves for sanctions or fees?

Also, will email addresses be required before a remote hearing so that a party can be contacted with a proposed order after the Court's decision? What if one party appears in person and other is remote, do the orders get emailed to the remote party before the Court enters it? Whose responsibility is it to email it? The concern here is that it becomes the burden of the party who is in court (for us, that likely will be the State). We happily assist with drafting orders, but emailing the other party, monitoring responses, and ensuring it gets to the Court is beyond our capacity to assist pro se litigants.

Another DPA specifically commented, "Appearing remotely is an additional burden on court process especially as to drafting of court orders, and obtaining parties signatures to court orders. Last minute changes become disputed, and limits the ability for agreements to be reached when a party is not present in person." Perhaps the Court can consider language that "an order may enter without a party's signature if [the party elects] to appear remotely."