

April 2, 2020

**Notice of Second Clarification:
Domestic Relations Custody Orders
for Visitation**

Questions have arisen with respect to the interpretation of child visitation schedules during the school closings necessitated by the Coronavirus/COVID-19. In an effort to help the Family Law Bar to advise your clients, the Northeastern Judicial Circuit – Hall and Dawson Counties – Superior Court Judges have met and unanimously agreed that in all cases in which child visitation is governed by a school calendar, visitation will continue to be governed by the previously published school calendar regardless of any break or homeschooling necessitated by the current public health crisis. The Governor’s shelter in place order, effective April 3, 2020, does not affect the Judges’ opinions that **parental time with their children is essential** and should continue. *The only exception to this is if a parent is taking a child/ren out of town in violation of the state-wide shelter in place order.* That would be a justification for not following a visitation order.

Spring Break, holiday and summer visitations will continue to be governed by the controlling school calendar in the manner stated in the applicable custody order in each case.



Chief Judge Kathlene F. Gosselin

Northeastern Judicial Superior Court