



HONORABLE DELLA COPE
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JUDICIAL PRACTICE PREFERENCES FOR COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

SECTION CV3 DOES NOT SCHEDULE HEARINGS VIA JAWS

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER: The Judicial Assistant (JA) cannot answer your legal questions, and will not explain your situation to the Judge. Your opportunity to speak to the Judge happens in Court only. If you are self-represented, the following information may be helpful:

The Clerk of Court has a Self Help Program for self-represented (pro-se) litigants at:

Pinellas County Courthouse
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 464-5150

St. Petersburg Judicial Building
545 1st Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Lawyer referral services through the Clearwater Bar Association (727) 461-4880

Gulfcoast Legal Services: (727) 443-0657 in Clearwater
(727) 821-0726 in St. Petersburg

Bay Area Legal Services: (800) 625-1757
Community Law Program (727) 582-7480
St. Petersburg Bar Assoc. (727) 821-5450

CASA Injunction Attorneys: (727) 895-4912

RESOURCES FOR VICTIM'S OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

*****ANYONE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER SHOULD CALL 9-1-1*****

24-hour Domestic Violence hotline

Pinellas County: 727-895-4912 / TTY: 727-828-1269

Florida Relay: 711

If you are a survivor, you can also receive free, confidential legal advice from the Florida Legal Services, Inc. Domestic Violence Hotline. Lawyers are available Monday-Friday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm to answer legal questions, provide you with free legal advice on injunctions, family law, immigration, housing, public benefits and other matters. They may also be available refer you to other services for assistance.

Agencies that assist victims of domestic violence include:

Community Action Stops Abuse (CASA): 727-895-4912

www.casapinellas.org

The Haven at Hope Villages of America: 727-442-4128 / 727-441-2029

<https://hopevillagesofamerica.org>

Shine the Light: 727-452-7007

shinealightondv@yahoo.com or www.facebook.com/shinealightondv

Suncoast Center Inc.: 727-388-1220

www.suncoastcenter.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

Florida Abuse Hotline: 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873)

Rape Crisis Hotline: 727-530-7273

Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888

INJUNCTION RETURN HEARINGS

All injunction return hearings will be conducted at the Pinellas County Justice Center, 14250 49th St N., Courtrooms 11, 12, or 13, Clearwater, FL 33762.

PRESENTING EVIDENCE

When you attend your hearing in Court, you must bring printed copies of any evidence you wish to present to the Court. The Court cannot review your cell phone as a part of a hearing. If you intend to present audio or video files you must bring them on a CD, DVD, or thumb drive for the Court to preserve the evidence.

Any attorneys presenting evidence via a laptop or other device, they are directed to contact CTO for a testing/training session. Attorneys will need to bring all their devices with them to the

testing/training, so that CTO can test them with the courtroom presentation system. Please contact the Court Technology Office at (727) 453-7928 to schedule the testing/training.

ZOOM APPEARANCES

All parties who wish to appear electronically for the return hearing MUST file a motion to appear electronically with the Clerk of the Court at least **two** days prior to the scheduled hearing. Additionally, you must email a copy of the motion to dvmotions@jud6.org. Should you have any questions, please contact the Sixth Circuit's Domestic Violence Office at dvoffice@jud6.org or by phone at (727) 582-7567.

FILING MOTIONS

When you file any motions with the clerk, please send a copy to the Court at DVMotions@jud6.org. Examples of these include Motion to continue your hearing to a later date, Motion to Dismiss Injunction, Motion to Modify Injunction, Motion to Extend Injunction, or Motion to Establish Timesharing.

So that the Court can hear the motions on an expedited basis, please include:

1. Your name
2. Your case number
3. A copy of your motion
4. Your contact information, including e-mail address and phone number
5. Last known contact information of the other party
6. Any upcoming court dates that are already scheduled

**DO NOT EMAIL MOTIONS TO SECTIONCV1, SECTIONCV2, OR SECTIONCV3
UNLESS UPON REQUEST OF THE JUDICIAL ASSISTANT.**

EMERGENCY AND EXPEDITED MOTIONS:

All emergency and expedited motions must be filed with the Clerk of Court prior to the Court determining emergency or expedited status. **Pleadings should only include the words emergency and/or expedited if there is the potential for harm to one of the parties or minor children within 7 days.** The Court does not receive motions through the Portal when you check "emergency." You must submit a copy of the motion to the Court by either email, hand-delivery, or regular U.S. mail. After review, the court may enter the Order without notice, allow a hearing to be set, may seek a written response from the opposing party, or take other appropriate action. **IMPORTANT:** *The Court will accept witness affidavit(s) one day prior to hearing and/or hear proffered testimony only to determine if a full hearing is needed.*

MOTIONS FOR REHEARING/RECONSIDERATION:

All Motions for Rehearing/Reconsideration shall be filed timely with the Clerk of the Court. A copy of the motion shall be sent to dvmotions@jud6.org. The Judge will review the motion and determine whether a hearing should be scheduled or if an order should be entered.

TESTIMONY FROM CHILDREN:

Testimony from minor children is **NOT** permitted unless the Court grants permission after a hearing on a *Motion to Allow Child Testimony*. The Court will not automatically honor stipulations for a child to testify in Court. **DO NOT** bring any minor children to contested hearings without prior Court approval. If you wish to have a minor child testify in Court at the proceedings, you must file a motion for child testimony, and it will be taken into consideration at the final hearing for the injunction for protection.

SETTING HEARING TIME:

The moving party needs to contact the JA by email and provide a copy of the motion that has been filed and request hearing time. The JA will provide potential dates for hearing time. If there is opposing counsel, the moving party must coordinate with the opposing counsel and then contact the JA by email with the agreement as to time, date, type of hearing and how much time is needed.

SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL:

Rule of Judicial Administration 2.505e (2) requires the client gives WRITTEN consent. Upload the cover letter, stipulation, signed consent and proposed Order to JAWS. Proposed Orders approving stipulations for substitution of counsel without the written consent of the client will not be signed.

WITHDRAWAL OF COUNSEL:

The Court may consider Motions to Withdraw as Counsel, without requiring a hearing, if written consent by the client is provided, as well as the opposing party's non-objection thereto *unless the motion is filed after the pre-trial*. The proposed Order MUST contain in the body of the Order the complete contact information for the party (i.e. address, phone number, e-mail address, etc.). If you do not have the client's written consent, then the motion must be set for hearing with proper notice to the client.