

IN RE:

: IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
: OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY

EMERGENCY CUSTODY PETITIONS

NO. 20MD137

**ORDER**

AND NOW, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2020, in light of the Judicial Emergency declared by this Court and by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on April 1, 2020, the COVID-19 Emergency Disaster Declaration and Stay at Home Order issued by Governor Tom Wolf on March 27, 2020, requiring all Lackawanna County residents to remain at home or at their place of residence to avoid spreading COVID-19, recognizing, however, that child custody transfers are permitted under the Governor's Stay at Home Order within the meaning of "travel required by court order," and further acknowledging that one of the Court's *essential functions* is to address custody disputes, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED and DECREED THAT, effective immediately, Emergency Special Relief Petitions may be filed as follows:**

1. An Emergency Special Relief Petition, setting forth all relevant information, shall be completed by Petitioner and verified. One of the following shall also be submitted with the Emergency Petition:
  - A. A Complaint for Custody, if a Custody Complaint has not been filed; or
  - B. A Petition to Modify Custody, if a custody order has been issued and the Emergency Petition seeks to modify the custody order; or
  - C. A Petition for Contempt of Custody, if the Emergency Petition alleges that the current custody has not been complied with.
2. Every Emergency Custody Petition must be accompanied by a Criminal Record/Abuse History Certification.
3. The Emergency Special Relief Petition must be forwarded to Family Court by emailing it to [CzaykowskiC@lackawannacounty.org](mailto:CzaykowskiC@lackawannacounty.org), or by faxing it to 570-963-5693 during business hours from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
4. The Petitioner must provide a telephone number and email address at which they can be reached by court staff.
5. The Emergency Special Relief Petition and attachments are available at: <https://www.lackawannacounty.org/index.php/one-stop-form-shop-2>
6. The Emergency Special Relief Petition will be reviewed by a designated Judge.
7. Custody emergencies warranting immediate Court intervention will be narrowly construed during this period.
8. After review, the Petitioner will be notified by reply email and/or telephone whether the Petition is appropriate for filing in accordance with the General Statewide Judicial Emergency Orders.

If acceptable for filing, the Petitioner will be provided with instructions regarding filing and e-filing service.

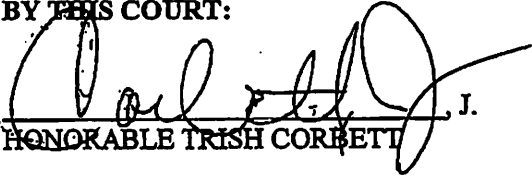
If the Petitioner is unable to submit the Emergency Special Relief Petition electronically, the Petitioner shall contact the Family Court Administration at 570-963-

MAURI B. KELLY  
LACKAWANNA COUNTY

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CLERKS OF SUPERIOR COURT  
RECORDS DIVISION

BY THIS COURT:

  
HONORABLE TRISH CORBETT, J.