FILED
MAY 22 2020
CLERK SUPREME COURT

In the Iowa Supreme Court

In the Matter of Resuming Family Law Trials Postponed by Coronavirus/COVID-19	)	**Order**

The Iowa Judicial Branch continues to carefully monitor the public health situation created by the Coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on Iowa's justice system. The judicial branch is committed to providing access to justice for all Iowans while balancing the need to take measures to reduce the spread of the virus. In response to the public health recommendations regarding social distancing and limitations on larger gatherings of people, the supreme court continued all family law trials to a later date. Family law cases comprise a significant part of the civil docket and of greatest concern are those cases in which children are waiting for final custody arrangements.

As the Iowa Judicial Branch continues planning to resume family law trials, it seeks to develop policies and procedures to ensure parties' fundamental rights while protecting the health and safety of parties, court staff, attorneys, judges, and all Iowans who access the courthouse.

The supreme court establishes the Jumpstart Family Law Trials Task Force to develop temporary policies and procedures for family law trials resuming following the COVID-19 postponements. The following individuals are appointed to the Task Force:

Honorable Thomas Waterman, Justice, Iowa Supreme Court, Davenport, chair

Stacey Warren, private practice attorney, Des Moines, co-chair

Honorable Julie Schumacher, Judge, Iowa Court of Appeals, Des Moines

Honorable Kevin McKeever, District Judge, Iowa City

David Cox, private practice attorney, Iowa City

Scott Hand, District Court Administrator, Mason City

Julie Mayhall, private practice attorney, Carroll

Jackie Myers, Des Moines County Clerk of Court, Burlington

Jessica Noll, private practice attorney, Sioux City

Todd Nuccio, State Court Administrator, Des Moines

Carrie O'Connor, Iowa Legal Aid, Dubuque

Katherine Salazar, private practice attorney, Washington

Anjela Shutts, private practice attorney, Des Moines

Shannon Simpson, practice attorney, Council Bluffs

Justin Teitle, private practice attorney, Bettendorf

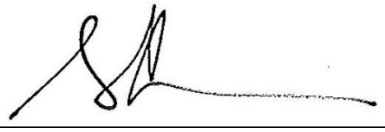
Jenny Weiss, private practice attorney, Dubuque

The Task Force will make recommendations to the supreme court to help facilitate decision making on how to proceed with family law trials when they resume including ways to prioritize family law cases. These recommendations shall be submitted to the supreme court on or by June 26, 2020.

Task Force members may be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable travel expenses according to Iowa Court Rules 22.16 through 22.20.

Dated this 22nd day of May, 2020.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By 

Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice

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