The Supreme Court of Ohio

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

December 16, 2020

[Cite as *12/16/2020 Administrative Actions*, 2020-Ohio-6725.]

In re Waiver of Physical Presence Requirement for Guardian-Ad-Litem-Education Courses and Encouraging Remote Participation in Judicial-College-Education Courses

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of Ohio issued Executive Order 2020-01D and declared a state of emergency in Ohio in response to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization publicly characterized COVID-19 as a global "pandemic" requiring "urgent and aggressive action" to control the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency;

WHEREAS, there has been a recent and considerable increase in the transmission of COVID-19 cases in Ohio;

WHEREAS, social distancing and other health and safety measures must be observed and followed during the emergency period to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, particularly during this period of increased transmission;

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic the Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College and other approved providers are offering remote continuing-legal and professional education for judges, magistrates, acting judges, and nonjudicial court personnel in order to comply with social distancing and other health and safety requirements;

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2020, the Supreme Court of Ohio adopted new Sup.R. 48 through 48.07 governing guardians ad litem, which are effective January 1, 2021;

WHEREAS, new Sup.R. 48.04(B)(2) and 48.05(A)(2) will require guardians ad litem to be physically present for a portion of the preservice and continuing-education courses;

WHEREAS, some local courts are requiring employees and appointees of the court, including guardians, to be physically present at the courthouse or other locations to participate in remote continuing-legal and professional-education courses;

NOW THEREFORE, the Court hereby orders that for calendar year 2021, the following apply:

(A) The provisions of Sup.R. 48.04(B)(2) and 48.05(A)(2) that require guardians ad litem to be physically present for preservice and continuing-education courses shall be waived, and guardians ad litem may satisfy these requirements by remotely participating in these courses.

(B) Local courts are encouraged to allow employees and appointees of the court to remotely participate in continuing-legal and professional-education courses offered by or on behalf of the Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College.

(C) Judges, magistrates, acting judges, and nonjudicial court personnel are encouraged to remotely participate in continuing-legal and professional-education courses offered by or on behalf of the Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College.