

## **PROTOCOLS FOR VIDEO CONFERENCING**

### **DISSOLUTIONS AND UNCONTESTED CASES**

If parties wish to go forward with their dissolution of marriage or uncontested divorce case during the COVID 19 coronavirus emergency period, the court will schedule their hearings via Zoom.

Prior to going forward, if they have children under 18 years of age, the parties must have completed parenting education (“Assisting Our Kids” – “AOK” – which can be found at <http://www.assistingourkids.com/blog>). Because of the COVID 19 coronavirus emergency, only on-line classes are available. If parents have completed the program on-line, they must produce proof of completion by mailing or emailing their certificate of completion to the clerk of courts for inclusion in their file (Henry County Clerk of Courts, Henry County Courthouse, Suite 302, 660 N. Perry Street, Napoleon, OH 43545, or [kim.stouffer@henrycountyohio.com](mailto:kim.stouffer@henrycountyohio.com) ). During the COVID 19 Coronavirus, children are not required to attend the children’s program “What About Me”; however, it is suggested that for children under age ten, parents utilize the program from Sesame Street, “Little Children, Big Challenges: Divorce” which can be found at <https://www.sesamestreet.org/toolkits/divorce?language=en> to assist their children in understanding the divorce or dissolution of marriage which is occurring

The parties must provide an **email address** to the Court and a telephone number for the date of the hearing at least 24 hours in advance by contacting Pam Thompson at 419-599-5951, ext. 5939 or via email at [pthompson@henrycountyfamilycourt.com](mailto:pthompson@henrycountyfamilycourt.com). If telephoning, parties may leave a message on the answering machine if Ms. Thompson is not available

The parties must be available by video for Dissolutions (this means having a smart phone or computer with video).

The parties must be available by video or audio for other uncontested cases (this means at least having a phone).

The parties must be in a quiet place without children in the room for the hearing to proceed.

The parties must provide a form of identification (drivers’ license or other ID) at the hearing.

The parties must be available for 30 minutes before the scheduled time and 60 minutes after to account for problems with the technology.

**Someone will email an invitation to attend either a video or audio conference. The participants need to monitor their email accounts during the 24 hours before the scheduled day for the hearing. Parties should try to load the Zoom app before the hearing, if it is a video hearing.**