

Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC22-108

IN RE: CONTINUING USE OF COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGIES FOR CERTAIN ALTERNATIVE
DISPUTE RESOLUTION PURPOSES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

To mitigate the effects of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic on the judicial branch and its participants, then Chief Justice Charles T. Canady issued administrative orders implementing temporary measures essential to the administration of justice to address the pandemic and to keep the courts operating to the fullest extent consistent with public safety. One of those administrative orders is *In re: Alternative Dispute Resolution Educational and Certification Requirements*, Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC20-24, Amendment 2 (Dec. 21, 2021). The majority of the provisions have terminated by operation of their effective dates. Three provisions will expire on December 31, 2022. However, these provisions continue to enhance the alternative dispute resolution community's role in addressing workload resulting from the pandemic and continue to have positive effects in the alternative

dispute resolution community and the court system amid lingering effects of the public health emergency.

The Supreme Court on July 14, 2022, adopted amendments to multiple rules of procedure and Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Forms, which provide permanent and broader authorization for the remote conduct of certain court proceedings.¹ The Court's action followed the filing of rules petitions by the Workgroup on the Continuity of Court Operations and Proceedings During and After COVID-19 and the Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court, which determined that permanent, broader authorization for the use of communication technologies for remote proceedings was warranted based on the positive outcomes and efficiencies observed during the pandemic.

1. *In re: Amendments to Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, Florida Probate Rules, Florida Rules of Traffic Court, Florida Small Claims Rules, and Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure*, 47 Fla. L. Weekly S187 (Fla. July 14, 2022), and *In re: Amendments to Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, and Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Forms*, 47 Fla. L. Weekly S188 (Fla. July 14, 2022).

These rule amendments were effective at 12:01 a.m. on October 1, 2022.

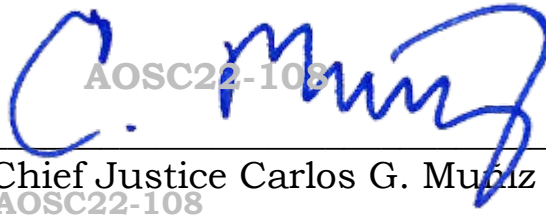
In light of the recognition of the efficiencies realized from the use of communication technologies for remote proceedings, as well as the contribution of these technologies to the continuing resolution of pandemic-related workload:

1. All Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators and Rules for Qualified and Court-Appointed Parenting Coordinators that require physical presence for disciplinary hearings, or a showing of good cause for the use of communication technologies for testimony at a disciplinary hearing, shall continue to be suspended through December 31, 2023.

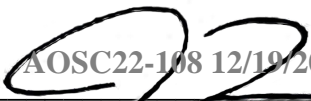
2. The requirement of training standard 5(a), Completion of Training and Evaluation of Students, established in *In re: Parenting Coordinator Application Form and Training Standards*, Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC14-64 (Nov. 14, 2014), that participants in parenting coordinator training programs must complete their training by physically attending a live training program shall continue to be suspended until June 30, 2023.

3. Rule 15.275(b), Rules for Qualified and Court-Appointed Parenting Coordinators, requiring that an initial session be in person, shall continue to be suspended through December 31, 2023.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on December 19, 2022.


AOSC22-108
Chief Justice Carlos G. Muñoz
AOSC22-108

ATTEST:


AOSC22-108 12/19/2022
John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court
AOSC22-108 12/19/2022

