



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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Chief Justice

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Standing Order 3-20

Guardian ad litem Evaluations, Investigations, and Reports in the Probate and Family Court in light of COVID-19 Emergency

In light of COVID-19, effective immediately, this Standing Order 3-20 supersedes any provision of Probate and Family Court Standing Order 2-20 that may be in conflict, and is intended to provide guidance to the interpretation of the Standing Order 2-20:

1. Any guardian ad litem appointment made prior to March 18, 2020 shall be extended until April 21, 2020.
2. If a guardian ad litem report is due to be filed prior to April 21, 2020, the due date for the report shall be extended six weeks from the current due date, unless a judge determines that the issue is time-sensitive and sets a new date certain for the guardian ad litem report to be filed.
3. Any guardian ad litem evaluation or investigation that was started prior to March 18, 2020 shall be suspended until May 1, 2020, unless the guardian ad litem is able to conduct the evaluation or investigation by telephone or videoconferencing.
4. The Probate and Family Court will amend, allow to expire, or extend this Standing Order no later than May 15, 2020.

March 24, 2020
Date

/s/ John D. Casey
Hon. John D. Casey
Chief Justice
Massachusetts Probate and Family Court