



The Weecks Quarterly©

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In the prior issue, I enjoyed taking a moment to reflect and wished readers who observed those holidays then occurring Chag Sameach Pesach and Happy Easter. Today, on the eve of Ramadan, a warm greeting for a holiday of good spiritual, mental, and physical health!

Family Court Cases during Covid-19

The Law Office of Debbie Weecks is well aware of the competing interests of parents observing judicial orders and parents interpreting the Governor's "stay-at-home" executive order as "*I keep my child for these extra weeks.*" There is speculation, too, that for attorneys such as this author whose practice includes child custodial action, divorces, and other family law cases, we might see a spike in cases when the Governor's executive order expires.

Today, The Hon. Presiding Judge Bruce Cohen of the Family Department of Superior Court addressed many concerns regarding current Covid-19 court operations and regarding the reports of anticipated trends.

Please feel free to call upon The Law Office of Debbie Weecks if you wish to retain counsel to reach out to the other parent if s/he is unilaterally withholding a child contrary to judicial orders without good cause or agreement, to file appropriate court paperwork or other agreed scope of representation. Please remember that this law office offers both limited (discrete task) representation and full representation, as may be ethically appropriate and agreed in many areas of law including family law, protective orders, and myriad other case types.

In today's town hall, Judge Cohen explained that he has accepted the guidelines for Maricopa County and that Justice Brutinel has accepted on a wider, state-wide scale the guidelines found at the Arizona Supreme Court. Here is the link:

<https://www.azcourts.gov/Portals/216/Pandemic/COVID19ParentingPlans.pdf> (the COVID-19 Parenting Time Guidelines; Version: 04/01/2020) Family Court Guidelines for Parenting Time of Children

The link at the Superior Court contains links to many other important guidelines, orders, and so on. That link for information on orders of protection, child support, and other information is at <https://superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/communications-office/covid-19/>



Essential Services

The Law Office of Debbie Weecks Remains Fully Operational.

Yes, this law office is fully operational and your calls are most welcome. If you get voicemail, please do remember to leave a clear message with your name and number for a prompt call-back, or a time frame that a call-back is best for you.

Status Update on the Petition Pending at the Supreme Court re the Practice of Law

The reader will recall from the prior The Weecks Quarterly© that there is a petition pending before the Arizona Supreme Court with ten proposals that were originally said by the assigned task force to address “access to justice” issues. Many in the legal community oppose certain of those proposals for multiple reasons, available to read directly at the Arizona Supreme Court’s rule forum.

At the prior State Bar of Arizona governing body’s meeting, the reader will recall that several non-Board members (including this author) spoke in contradiction to portions of the pending petition. As scheduled, at its next public meeting held virtually on Friday April 17th, foundational issues discussed in March were further debated. Primary among those were whether the Bar will take a position by commenting to the Supreme Court and if yes, what direction the Bar would give its staff to begin drafting the Bar’s comment.

There was robust discussion of the BOG members, ending in a vote that carried to submit a comment to the Arizona Supreme Court stating the Bar’s position on the pending petition. Upon motion seconded with some “friendly amendments,” that Board of Governors voted in favor (12 to 8) to prepare a comment to the Arizona Supreme Court on behalf of the State Bar OPPOSING two of ten proposed changes, abstaining from comment on the other eight matters in the pending petition, and alternatively proposing different language if the Court proceeds with two matters the Bar opposes. Those two changes the BOG voted to oppose are those that would allow non-attorney legal representatives including in court (Limited Licensed Legal Practitioners) and that would allow large firms to be owned by investors or other third-parties (non-lawyer owned firms). The BOG will decide at its May 22nd meeting whether to accept the proposed draft of the Comment being prepared by the State Bar’s staff. The comment period closes May 26th and public members also may comment at the Arizona Supreme Court if they wish.

In these unique times and among the Covid-19 challenges, The Law Office of Debbie Weecks wishes you and yours good health.

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