



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
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John D. Casey  
Chief Justice

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**Standing Order 3-20**  
**As Amended May 6, 2020**

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

In light of COVID-19, Standing Order 3-20, as amended May 6, 2020 supersedes Standing Order 3-20, as amended April 13, 2020, as well as any provision of Probate and Family Court Standing Order 2-20 and the GAL Category E and Category F standards 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 June 30, 2020.
2. If a guardian ad litem report is due to be filed between March 18, 2020 and May 18, 2020, the due date for the report shall be the earlier of twelve weeks from the original due date or June 30, 2020, 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. Guardian ad litem evaluation or investigation interviews/meetings shall be conducted in-person only if the guardian ad litem elects to do so. Interviews/meetings may be conducted by telephone or videoconferencing, at the election of the guardian ad litem.
4. Any questions related to a particular guardian ad litem appointment, investigation, or report should be addressed to the Assistant Judicial Case Manager and/or Sessions Clerk for the judge who made the appointment.
5. The Probate and Family Court will amend, allow to expire, or extend this Standing Order no later than June 1, 2020.

May 6, 2020  
Date

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