

# SHON COOK LAW<sup>PC</sup>

The Good Witch of the Law!

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Former Muskegon County Friend of the Court

Former Muskegon County Circuit Court and Family Court Administrator

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Dear Michigan Family Law Attorneys, Judges and Referees:

With the Covid-19 virus, we are all left trying to figure out how to best serve our clients and the public. For those counties that are attempting to conduct hearings through electronic means, and enter consent orders that divide pensions, or allow our clients to refinance or close on homes, we are thankful. In many counties, our clients are in a holding pattern, waiting for courthouses to open, or orders to be entered, so their issues can be heard and resolved. To help the public, clients, our courts and attorneys across the state, several highly experienced family law mediators and arbitrators, have agreed to mediate and arbitrate cases throughout Michigan via Zoom. With this great technology, we are able to resolve cases anywhere in the state. Zoom is free for up to 40 minutes of use at a time. You can also purchase a subscription at \$15/month for unlimited timed sessions. Zoom allows multiple users at one time to meet. All you need is a webcam and audio to participate.

The best news is that each of the attorneys listed below are agreeing to substantially reduce their current hourly rate to get cases moving, and help reduce the backlog of cases once the courthouses open. We all know that once the courthouses open, that it will be difficult to get mediations back on the books, due to the high demand, and that everyone will be back to normal hourly rates.

Please contact your clients and opposing counsel and take advantage of the generosity of these attorneys to get cases done. We can all help so many people, by committing to this process and reducing caseloads of our Judges. If you have any questions about this process, you can contact me, or any of the attorneys on the attached list.

Thanks for your consideration. All the best to your families, employees and clients as we navigate our current legal and health situations.

Sincerely,

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