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**IN THE  
HO-CHUNK NATION JUDICIARY**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

**In re: Guardians ad litem**

**Order No.: Admin. 20-08**

**WHEREAS**, the Ho-Chunk Nation General Council delegated judicial authority to the Ho-Chunk Nation Judiciary pursuant to the CONSTITUTION OF THE HO-CHUNK NATION, ART. VII § 4; and,

**WHEREAS**, the General Council delegated legislative authority to the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature pursuant to CONST., ART. V, § 1(a); and,

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature adopted the HO-CHUNK NATION JUDICIARY ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANIZATION ACT, pursuant to its constitutional authority as articulated in CONST., ART. V, § 2(a); and,

**WHEREAS**, “[t]he Judiciary shall have exclusive authority and responsibility to employ personnel and to establish written rules and procedures governing the . . . operation of the courts” pursuant to JUDICIARY ACT, para. 1.5c; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature approved the job description of the Chief Judge pursuant to its constitutional authority as articulated in CONST., ART. V, § 2(f); and,

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature confirmed that “[t]he Chief Judge is responsible for the overall Tribal Court System . . .” in the job description; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Judge has routinely entered administrative orders pertaining to the administration of the courts since the foundation of the Judiciary; and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature declared a state of emergency, imposing stringent restrictions on employment-related travel HCN Leg. Res. 03-12-

1 20A at 3-4. Additionally, the Ho-Chunk Nation President declared a state of emergency, as  
2 suspending employment-related travel. HCN Admin. Order, Mar. 13, 2020-01; and,

3           **WHEREAS**, the Ho-Chunk Nation Supreme Court has issued In Re Emergency  
4 Adoption of Temporary Amendment to the *Ho-Chunk Nation Rules of Appellate and Civil*  
5 *Procedure* encouraging the submission of pleadings through electronic email given the ongoing  
6 emergency Covid-19 crisis; and

7  
8           **WHEREAS**, the Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court and Supreme Court issued a joint  
9 Administrative Order, adopting the temporary process for electronic filing in Admin. Order 20-  
10 07; and,

11  
12           **WHEREAS**, the Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court is monitoring the ongoing situation;

13           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CHIEF JUDGE ENTERS**  
14 **THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER EFFECTIVE UPON THE DATE OF**  
15 **SIGNATURE:**

16  
17           The following orders are emergency, temporary measures and shall remain in  
18 effect for a period of 45 days. The Trial Court may extend these emergency  
19 orders if deemed necessary.

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- 21           • Guardians ad litem shall not visit the homes and/or facilities of children,  
22           wards, parents, and elders and/or adults-at-risk to whom they are appointed  
23           to review during the current outbreak of Covid-19.
  - 24           • While the Court will make every effort to address emergency cases  
25           involving emergency removals of children, elder abuse actions, and  
26           domestic violence protection orders, among others, the Court shall strongly  
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encourage its Guardians ad litem to work at home through telephonic and electronic means to avoid interaction with the public.

- Guardians ad litem shall also follow the **E-Filing Temporary Process During Covid-19 Pandemic** established jointly between the Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court and the Ho-Chunk Nation Supreme Court in *Admin. Order 20-07*, attached.
- Furthermore, Guardians ad litem shall make all court appearances through telephone for the duration of this emergency order.

**IT IS SO ORDERED**, this 20th Day of March 2020, by the Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court located in Black River Falls, WI within the sovereign lands of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Honorable Jo Deen B. Lowe  
 Chief Trial Court Judge

Ho-Chunk Nation Court System  
 P.O. Box 70  
 Black River Falls, WI 54615  
 (715) 284-2722 or 800-434-4070

