

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court Department**

**Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411. Automatic Restraining Order**

**Notice to Plaintiff**

(a) The following automatic restraining order shall apply to both parties to a complaint for divorce or separate support. This automatic restraining order shall be effective with regard to the plaintiff upon the filing of the complaint by the plaintiff or the plaintiff's counsel and with regard to the defendant upon service of the summons and complaint or any other acceptance of service by the defendant.

After service of the complaint for divorce or separate support, on two (2) days' notice to the other party or on such shorter notice as the court may prescribe, a party may appear without thereby submitting his person to the jurisdiction of the court, and move to modify or dissolve the automatic restraining order and in that event the court shall proceed to hear and determine such motion as expeditiously as the ends of justice require.

**This order is in effect until the earliest of the following: (1)the order is modified or dissolved by the court; (2)the order is modified by a written agreement of the parties with court approval; (3)the entry of a judgment of divorce or separate support; (4)the action is dismissed; or (5)by further order of the court. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER MAY BE DEEMED A CONTEMPT OF COURT.**

**The following order PROHIBITS either party to a complaint for divorce or separate support from:**

(1) Selling, transferring, encumbering, concealing, assigning, removing or in any way disposing of any property, real or personal, belonging to or acquired by, either party, except: (a) as required for reasonable expenses of living; (b) in the ordinary and usual course of business; (c) in the ordinary and usual course of investing; (d) for payment of reasonable attorney's fees and costs in connection with the action; (e) by written agreement of both parties; or (f) by Order of the Court.

(2) Incurring any further debts that would burden the credit of the other party, including but not limited to further borrowing against any credit line secured by the marital residence or unreasonably using credit cards or cash advances against credit or bank cards;

(3) Directly or indirectly changing the beneficiary of any life insurance policy, pension or retirement plan, or pension or retirement investment account, except with the written consent of the other party or by Order of the Court.

(4) Directly or indirectly causing the other party or the minor child(ren) to be removed from coverage under an existing insurance policy or permitting such coverage to lapse, including medical, dental, life, automobile, and disability insurance. The parties shall maintain all insurance coverage in full force and effect.

(b) The provisions contained in the new summons for divorce or separate support must be served on the defendant, except if personal service is not made as provided in Rule 4 and service is made by publication, said notice shall include a statement that an automatic restraining order has

been issued pursuant to this rule. The provisions of this automatic restraining order need not be reprinted in said public notice.

Date Rule Effective: January 1, 2000



Chief Justice

CJ-D 1108 (01/00)