



Juvenile Court of Cobb County

32 Waddell Street, Marietta, Georgia 30090
Phone (770) 528-2220

TO: Cobb County Juvenile Court, Public

FROM: Amber Patterson, Presiding Judge

DATE: August 17, 2020

SUBJECT: Court Procedures Limiting Risk to Public Health and Safety

MEMO

In an effort to minimize risk to public health and safety, the following will occur in Cobb Juvenile Court, beginning on August 17, 2020:

I. Case Rotation

A. The judges shall alternate dependency and delinquency cases in the following manner:

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Hamby	Dependency	Delinquency	Dependency	Delinquency	Special Set/Individual Hearings
Patterson	Delinquency	Dependency	Delinquency	Dependency	Special Set/Individual Hearings
Grannis	Dependency	Delinquency	Dependency	Delinquency	Special Set/Individual Hearings
West	Delinquency	Dependency	Delinquency	Dependency	Special Set/Individual Hearings

B. Additional duties and specialty courts assigned to the judges are as follows:

- i. Hamby= Family Treatment Court
- ii. Patterson= Juvenile Drug Court
- iii. Grannis= Rising Court
- iv. West= Traffic Court, CHINS

II. Limited Schedule

A. We believe that the following plan will allow us to hear the maximum amount of cases while maintaining appropriate social distancing and providing the least amount of disruption to the public, court personnel, and our partner agencies. This plan minimizes continuances, and provides the best opportunity for Cobb County Juvenile Court to resume normal operations in the near future.

B. The judges will rotate court weeks in the following manner:

- i. Judge 1- Regular calendar, but split into five cases at 9 a.m. and five cases at 2 p.m.
- ii. Judge 2- Regular calendar, but split into five cases at 9 a.m. and five cases at 2 p.m.
 - 1. Because dependency cases tend to have more people and attorneys present, this judge will hear dependency cases on opposite days from Judge 1.
- iii. Judge 3- On Call Judge
 - 1. This judge is on call 24-hours a day from Monday at 9:00 a.m. until the following Monday at 9:00 a.m.
 - 2. This judge will hear Detention and Preliminary Protective Hearings only each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1:00 p.m. Additionally, they are available for verbal removal decisions on a 24-hour basis.
 - 3. Additionally, this judge will hear adjudications with short time limitations and emergencies as necessary for all judges.
 - 4. These hearings will not have a start time at 9:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. to limit traffic in the building at those times.
 - 5. This judge will have limited access to waiting areas.
 - 6. This judge may set individual hearings only, may have only one case in the courtroom at a time and must ensure that there is no overlap of these cases in the courthouse at any time.
- iv. Judge 4- Limited Hearings
 - 1. These hearings will not have a start time at 9:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. to limit traffic in the building at those specific times.
 - 2. This judge will have limited access to waiting areas.
 - 3. This judge may set individual hearings only, may have only one case in the courtroom at a time and must ensure that there is no overlap of these cases in the courthouse at any time.

C. The following schedule will be implemented from August 17, 2020 until December 31, 2020, or until further notice:

WEEK	Judge 1- In Court	Judge 2- In Court	Judge 3- On Call	Judge 4- Limited Hearings
8/17	Patterson	Hamby	West	Grannis
8/24	Patterson	Grannis	Hamby	West

8/31	Hamby	West	Patterson	Grannis
9/7	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby	West
9/14	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
9/21	Grannis	Patterson	West	Hamby
9/28	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
10/5	Hamby	West	Patterson	Grannis
10/12	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby	West
10/19	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
10/26	Grannis	Patterson	West	Hamby
11/2	Hamby	West	Patterson	Grannis
11/9	Patterson	Grannis	Hamby	West
11/16	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
11/23	Patterson	Grannis	West	Hamby
11/30	Hamby	West	Patterson	Grannis
12/7	Patterson	Grannis	Hamby	West
12/14	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
12/21	West	Hamby	Patterson	Grannis
12/28	Patterson	Grannis	West	Hamby

D. Each judge will be able to conduct specialty courts via video or in person pursuant to the limitations above.

III. Waiting Rooms

- A. Cobb County Juvenile Court currently has two waiting rooms that have been transformed to comply with social distancing measures. The current attorney waiting room will be used as an additional waiting room for the public. The private attorney conference rooms and mediation rooms will be used as additional waiting areas if necessary.
- B. Attorneys waiting on cases will be admitted to courtroom three to wait in designated areas.
- C. DFCS employees, children in DFCS care, and foster parents will be admitted to the five separate office/areas in the DFCS suite within the courthouse.
- D. Everyone that currently has an office in the building will report back to their offices when not on an active case in court. The courtroom clerk will call them to return to court when their case is called.
- E. CASA volunteers will be appropriately distanced and will wait for cases on the 5th floor as directed by CASA officers.

IV. Procedure

- A. All persons entering Cobb County Juvenile Court shall comply with the current CDC recommendations, Executive Orders, Orders from the Supreme Court of Georgia, and Orders from the Chief Judge of the Cobb County Superior Court, including temperature checks, mask requirements, and limitations on room capacity.
- B. All participants have the option of attending in person or via videoconference unless otherwise ordered. Persons wishing to participate or observe a scheduled

hearing virtually may email ccjcvirtual@cobbcounty.org the Friday before the court hearing. Please include your name, the subject child's name, and the date and time of the hearing in your email.

- C. If you need assistance with Judge Patterson or Judge West's calendar, please contact Judicial Assistant Star Simmons at 770-528-2224. If you need assistance with Judge Hamby or Judge Grannis' calendar, please contact Judicial Assistant Donelle Keaton at 770-528-2428.