

**IN THE 16<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MISSOURI  
FAMILY COURT DIVISION**

IN RE: Temporary Exclusion of Children      ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: 20-01  
From Family Court Juvenile Hearings

**ORDER**

WHEREAS, the Presiding Judge of the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, the Honorable David Byrn, has the authority over dockets of this Circuit and the authority to enter Orders affecting the general scheduling of cases in this Circuit; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Presiding Judge entered Administrative Order 2020-053 specifically setting forth that:

Regarding hearings scheduled at the Juvenile Justice Center, all detention hearings and protective custody hearings will proceed as scheduled. All other hearings in abuse and neglect cases, including Family Drug Court, and termination of parental rights cases which are scheduled during the weeks of March 16, 2020, and March 23, 2020, will be continued and re-scheduled by the individual judicial officers. Hearings for juveniles held in judicial custody within the Juvenile Detention Center shall be held during this two week period; however, the judicial officers shall have the discretion to exclude individuals to comply with the recommendation of the Center for Disease Control (CDC). All other hearings regarding delinquency matters will be continued and reset; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Family Court Division of the 16th Judicial Circuit of Missouri to take precautions to maintain a safe and healthy court environment for all visitors and staff; and

WHEREAS, the Court has determined that, in the best interests of the children, all Family Court juvenile detention hearings and juvenile protective custody hearings, can effectively proceed without the presence of juveniles;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, in the best interests of the children, effective immediately, that all juveniles are excused from attending all Family Court juvenile detention hearings and juvenile protective custody hearings; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, in the best interests of the children, effective immediately, that extended relatives and potential placement providers shall be excluded, and shall not attend Family Court juvenile detention hearings and juvenile protective custody hearings; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, in the best interests of the children, effective immediately, that all hearings for juveniles held in judicial custody within the Juvenile Detention Center shall be conducted via videoconferencing when available; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, in the best interests of the children, that all adoption cases which are scheduled during the weeks of March 16, 2020, and March 23, 2020, will be continued and re-scheduled by the individual judicial officers.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

March 13, 2020

Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JALILAH OTTO  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE  
FAMILY COURT DIVISION

Copies to:  
Presiding Judge  
Court Administrator  
Family Court Judges and Commissioners  
Deputy Court Administrator/Family Court  
Juvenile Officer  
Family Court Directors  
Assistant Legal Counsel/Family Court  
Office of the Guardian ad litem  
CASA Project  
Office of the Public Defender  
Children's Division, Jackson County offices  
Division of Legal Services (DSS), Jackson County office  
Chairs, Juvenile and Family Law Committees, KCMBA

  
\_\_\_\_\_