

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI
31ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

In Re: COVID-19

NOTICE OF HEARINGS- JUVENILE DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 25p-20

ORDER

On March 22, 2020, the Missouri Supreme Court entered its Order suspending all in-person hearings, with certain specified exceptions, through Friday, April 17, 2020. That date may be extended by the Missouri Supreme Court as circumstances warrant. Proceedings pursuant to Chapters 210 and 211 pertaining to juvenile delinquency, abuse, and neglect, termination of parental rights and Chapter 453 proceedings pertaining to adoption are specified **exceptions** to the suspension of in-person hearings.

The Supreme Court's Order states that while the above-specified hearings can be held in-person (and must be if available technologies to limit in-person courtroom appearances are not available), the Juvenile Court will make all reasonable efforts to hold such hearings remotely via teleconferencing or video conferencing in an effort to limit the spread of Covid-19 in our community. If a hearing is required to be held in-person, the attendance at such proceeding shall be limited to the attorneys, parties, witnesses, security officers, and other individuals necessary to the proceeding as determined by the judge presiding over the proceedings. No one else will be allowed in the courtroom.

To the extent possible, all protective custody hearings, abuse and neglect jurisdictional and dispositional hearings, permanency hearings, detention hearings, delinquency jurisdiction and disposition hearings, motions to modify, and adoptions shall be held using a combination of teleconferencing and video conferencing. If a party cannot participate in the hearing through one of those methods, they shall contact the division clerk so that arrangements can be made for an in-person appearance or other alternative. In the event there is a request for a contested abuse and neglect or delinquency hearing, the party making such a request shall notify the Court and a status conference will be set (utilizing teleconferencing or video conference) to discuss the logistics of such a contested hearing.

Status hearings, case reviews, post-permanency review hearings, and probation review hearings and other hearings that do not require an in-person appearance, to which the rules of evidence do not apply, and which may be heard either formally or informally, shall be heard and ruled on by the Court in chambers. The Court requests that Children's Division, Contracted Case Management, Juvenile Officer, the Guardian ad Litem, counsel for parents, CASA volunteer, placement providers, and any other

parties to the proceeding shall, prior to the hearing date, file their written case reports, status reports, recommendations, etc. for review by the court on that date. In the event a party does not have the ability to e-file their reports, then the reports shall be emailed to the deputy juvenile officer for filing. The Court will review all documents and will make the required findings and enter the required orders appropriate under the circumstances. In the event a party is seeking some affirmative relief at such hearing (increased/decreased visitation, permissive placement, drug testing, etc.) that party shall file an appropriate motion and contact the division clerk to schedule a hearing on the motion. In Probation Court Review hearings, the same procedure as above described shall apply.

Terminations of Parental Rights: Most termination of parental rights hearings are currently assigned to specific judicial officers. Attorneys for the Juvenile Office will be contacting the parties in those cases that are currently scheduled to assess the current status of each case. Motions, status conferences and other matters related to those hearings will be held when at all possible through teleconferencing and video conferencing under the direction of the judicial officer assigned to that case. Termination of parental rights hearings shall be held in a manner consistent with the Order of the Missouri Supreme Court.

If the Missouri Supreme Court extends its current order of March 22, 2020 suspending in-court proceedings for a period of time, this Administrative Order will remain in effect for that same period of time.

IT IS SO ORDERED

March 27, 2020



Michael J. Cordonnier
Presiding Judge
Greene County Circuit Court