

**TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISHES OF
LIVINGSTON, ST. HELENA, AND TANGIPAHOA**

**BLAIR D. EDWARDS
DISTRICT JUDGE, DIVISION I
21ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT**

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 23, 2020

FROM: JUDGE BLAIR D. EDWARDS

RE: JUVENILE COURT COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Following the orders and recommendations of the Office of the Governor of the State of Louisiana, Louisiana Supreme Court, and Center for Disease Control, the 21st Judicial District Court, Division I – Juvenile court is taking every precaution to reduce exposure to and the spread of COVID-19.

At this time, Juvenile Court will be handle remotely by audio and visual conferencing (zoom meeting). Please see below for the protocols put in place for all juvenile matters in Livingston, Tangipahoa, and St. Helena Parishes. This will remain in effect until further notice of the Court.

CHILD IN NEED OF CARE MATTERS:

All Attorneys, DCFS supervisor, CASA supervisor, Minute Clerk, Court Reporter, and if DCFS confirms an email for parent(s), text or email Trinell (Judges Secretary) or Christen (Judges Law Clerk) your email

*If parent doesn't have email capabilities, caseworker needs to have parent call parent(s) attorney at the phone number provided before the time/date given for remote hearing.

*DCFS Contact Trinell for Attorney phone numbers to be provided for parents

72s /ANSWERS/TERMINATION ANSWERS

Instantner Orders/Petitions- file by email and follow up asap

Livingston – krista.prestidge@livclerk.org

St. Helena – not available at this time

Tangipahoa – mgraham@tangiclerk.org

REVIEWS/DISPOSITIONS

Reports-

*DCFS caseworker/CASA will email all reports to all attorneys and Trinell (same as usual)

*DCFS, also needs to email report to appropriate clerk (Livingston/Tangipahoa)

MUST ATTEND HEARING:

*You will be a sent an email with a link to the hearing. You must click the link to download the program on your device. A pop-up should appear for you to access hearing.

*If the parents do not have the capability to join via zoom meeting but can call the attorney, the attorney should put the phone as close to the microphone as possible.

*Zoom meeting allows for the hearing to be recorded and the court reporter will be able to record for her records as well.

*The Court will accept a denial, stipulation, or continuance. Stipulations shall be entered only if the parent has informed their Public Defender/Attorney of their desire to stipulate and appears via Zoom or by phone through attorney

****AT THIS TIME, ADJUDICATIONS/TERMINATIONS/MOTIONS TO MODIFY WILL BE RESET**

MUST ATTEND HEARING (remotely):

Parents – If they are able

Public Defender/ Attorney for the parent(s) or Private Attorneys(s)

Assistant District Attorney

CAP (Juvenile) Attorney

DCFS Supervisor (only 1)

CASA Supervisor (only 1)

Court Reporter

Judge

Minute Clerk

Law Clerk

Secretary

PRE-TRIAL HEARINGS-

MUST ATTEND HEARING:

Public Defender/ Attorney for the parent(s) or Private Attorneys(s)

Assistant District Attorney

DA's Assistant

CAP (Juvenile) Attorney

Court Reporter

Judge

Minute Clerk

Law Clerk

Secretary

DELINQUENCY MATTERS:

All Attorneys, Minute Clerk, Court Reporter, OJJ Probation Officers, and Law enforcement text or email Trinell (Judges Secretary) or Christen (Judges Law Clerk) your email:

Trinell – tdortch@21stjdc.org or (985)351-2320

Christen – cabels@21stjdc.org or (985)9811657

*Law enforcement should get phone numbers and emails from parents if juveniles are detained and make sure it is on the Probable Cause sheet (warrant, instanter) with attached report

*Probable Cause sheets/ Reports must be emailed to Trinell or Christen

* Court Staff will be responsible for emailing Probable Cause/Reports to attorneys

Petitions/Rules- file by email and follow up with hard copy asap

Livingston – krista.prestidge@livclerk.org

St. Helena – not available at this time

Tangipahoa – mgraham@tangiclerk.org

72s –

Assistant District Attorney

Juvenile Attorney (Public Defender/Private)

Court Reporter

Judge

Minute Clerk

Law Clerk

ADA Assistant

Juvenile from Florida Parishes Juvenile Detention Center

Law enforcement officers

OJJ Probation Officer

ANSWERS/REVIEWS/RULES/BOND HEARINGS/MOTIONS TO MODIFY DISPOSITION:

Assistant District Attorney

Juvenile Attorney (Public Defender/Private)

Court Reporter

Judge

Minute Clerk

Law Clerk

ADA Assistant

Juvenile from Florida Parishes Juvenile Detention Center

OJJ Probation Officer (not needed for bond hearings)

***All adjudications will be reset**

ALL TRUANCY AND FINS MATTERS:

FINS office will continue contact via phone will all FINS clients and reset any matters for hearing

JUVENILE DRUG COURT:

Juveniles should continue to call color line for further drug testing instructions.

Juveniles should appear for once a week to change patches when color is called

*All Drug Court staffings will take place via phone or zoom meeting, Court will make contact with Team to schedule.

Best Regards,

Judge Blair D. Edwards

CJA/BDE