

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISHES OF
LAFAYETTE, VERMILION, AND ACADIA

THOMAS R. DUPLANTIER
DISTRICT JUDGE, DIVISION I
15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

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AMENDED MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 6, 2020

FROM: JUDGE THOMAS R. DUPLANTIER

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 15th 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 Lafayette and Vermilion Parishes. This will remain in effect until further notice of the Court.

***Vermilion** - The handling of the Vermilion Docket for April 7th will be via Zoom Conferencing.

PROTOCOLS FOR APPEARANCE VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING:

All participants shall be logged in at least five (5) minutes prior to the commencement time of the scheduled hearing. All counsel shall appear in business attire and maintain proper courtroom decorum. Please avoid interruptions when an individual is speaking, unless there is a valid objection, failure to do so will make difficult for all participants to hear what is being stated.

CHILD IN NEED OF CARE MATTERS:

All Attorneys, DCFS supervisors, CASA supervisor(s), Minute Clerk, Court Reporter, shall forward your email and contact information to Ashley Alis (Judges Secretary) or Sy Savoy (Judges Law Clerk) if you have not done so already. Further, parental contact information, if available, shall be forwarded to Ashley or Sy.

Ashley – aealis@15thjdc.org

Sy – duplantierlawclerk@icloud.com

*If a 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 shall Contact Ashley for Attorney phone numbers to be provided for parents.

72s /ANSWERS/TERMINATION ANSWERS

Instantanter Orders/Petitions-

Lafayette – Please contact Susie St. Clair on her cell (337-739-0255). She will instruct you on what you need to do in order to file your instanter orders as they come.

Vermilion – The Vermilion Court House is accessible and running on a small staff. Should an instanter need to be filed you will be able to go to the courthouse and file it. The clerk's office will then notify the clerk in the juvenile division to handle the matter.

REVIEWS/DISPOSITIONS

Reports-

*DCFS caseworker/CASA will email all reports to all attorneys and Ashley

*DCFS, also needs to email report to appropriate clerk

Judgments/Orders-

*DCFS caseworker/supervisor will email all Judgments/Orders for hearings to Sy (in subject line include date and parish of hearing) with the following information filled in:

- Docket Number
- Name of Parties (Child, Parents, Caseworker)
- Attorneys for All Parties [if known]
- Any special orders or request that the department would like to have included the order

MUST ATTEND HEARING:

*You will be 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

Acadiana Legal Services (Juvenile) Attorney

DCFS Supervisor (only 1)

CASA Supervisor (only 1)

Court Reporter

Judge

Minute Clerk

Law Clerk

Secretary

Best Regards,

Judge Thomas R. Duplantier