

TITLE IV
Chapter 24 - Procedure
Rule 24.12 - Presence of Children in the Courtroom and/or Hearing Officer Conferences
Appendix 24.12 - Court-Specific Rules Concerning the Presence of Children in the Courtroom and/or Hearing Officer Conferences

**First Judicial District
Court**

Parish of Caddo

**Second Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of Bienville,
Claiborne and Jackson**

**Third Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of Lincoln and
Union**

**Fourth Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of Morehouse
and Ouachita**

**Fifth Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of Franklin,
Richland and West
Carroll**

**Sixth Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of East Carroll,
Madison and Tensas**

**Seventh Judicial District
Court**

**Parishes of Catahoula
and Concordia**

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Eighth Judicial District Court	
Parish of Winn	
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Ninth Judicial District Court	
Parish of Rapides	
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Tenth Judicial District Court	
Parish of Natchitoches	
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Eleventh Judicial District Court	
Parish of Sabine	
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Twelfth Judicial District Court	
Parish of Avoyelles	
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Thirteenth Judicial District Court	Clients and witnesses shall be advised not to bring children to court, unless in unusual circumstances were the child(ren) may be called as witnesses. Children, under the age of twelve, shall not be allowed in the courtroom without special permission of the court.
Parish of Evangeline	
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Fourteenth Judicial District Court	Clients and witnesses shall be advised not to bring children to the courthouse. When a child is to be a witness in a proceeding, the child shall not be brought to the courthouse until the Court calls for their testimony. If the child is enrolled in school, they are to remain in school until called by the Court. Children shall not be allowed in the courtroom without special permission of the Judge.
Parish of Calcasieu	
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Fifteenth Judicial District Court	Clients and witnesses shall be advised not to bring children to court, except in unusual circumstances where the child[ren] may be called as witnesses. When a child is to be a witness in a proceeding, arrangements shall be made to have the child on a standby basis until their testimony is needed, preferably waiting at a location other than the Courthouse. Children, under the age of twelve, shall not be allowed in the courtroom
Parishes of Acadia, Lafayette and Vermilion	without special permission of the court. The Clerk of Court shall notify the parties of this rule.
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**Sixteenth Judicial
District Court**

**Parishes of Iberia, St.
Martin and St. Mary**

**Seventeenth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Lafourche

**Eighteenth Judicial
District Court**

**Parishes of Iberville,
Pointe Coupee and West
Baton Rouge**

CHILDREN IN THE COURTROOM

Clients and witnesses shall be advised not to bring children to court, except in unusual circumstances where the child[ren] may be called as witnesses. When a child is to be a witness in a proceeding, arrangements shall be made to have the child on a stand by basis until their testimony is needed.

**Nineteenth Judicial
District Court**

**Parish of East Baton
Rouge**

**Family Court, Parish of
East Baton Rouge**

**For the Parish of East
Baton Rouge**

**Twentieth Judicial
District Court**

**Parishes of East Feliciana
and West Feliciana**

**Twenty-First Judicial
District Court**

**Parishes of Livingston,
St. Helena and
Tangipahoa**

**Twenty-Second Judicial
District Court**

Parishes of St. Tammany

A. The parties are not to bring or allow their minor children to be brought to the courthouse for any family court proceeding, including Hearing Officer Conferences and court appearances, without prior court approval.

and Washington

Amended effective March 22, 2019.

B. If a party plans to call a minor child as a witness in a family court proceeding, arrangements shall be made to have the child available at a location other than the courthouse, until ordered by the Judge.

C. Parties are prohibited from bringing children under the age of 12 years to any family court proceedings including Hearing Officer Conferences and court appearances.

D. Parties are allowed to bring children involved in an uncontested adoption proceeding to the court hearing.

E. If a Watermeier hearing is requested to be held, a motion and order for same must be filed at least 20 (twenty) days prior to the hearing. If the order is granted, proposed questions for the child shall be submitted to the Court and provided to opposing counsel/party at least 5 (five) days prior to the hearing. Any objections to specific questions must be submitted to opposing counsel/party at least 2 (two) days prior to the hearing. In the event that each party submits questions for the child to the Court timely, the time spent by the Judge questioning the child will be equally assessed to the parties. The parties may not supply the questions to the child or discuss their testimony, nor may they have any other person do so on their behalf. All Watermeier questions are to be filed under seal in the record.

Twenty-Third Judicial District Court

Parishes of Ascension, Assumption and St. James

Amended November 30, 2015, effective January 1, 2016.

Clients and witnesses shall be advised not to bring children under the age of 12 to the courthouse, except in unopposed adoption proceedings. When a child is to be a witness in a proceeding, the child shall not be brought to the courthouse until the Court calls for their testimony. If the child is enrolled in school, they are to remain in school until called by the Court. No children shall be allowed in the courtroom without special permission of the Judge.

Twenty-Fourth Judicial District Court

Parish of Jefferson

Twenty-Fifth Judicial District Court

Parish of Plaquemines

Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court

Parishes of Bossier and Webster

Twenty-Seventh Judicial District Court

Parish of St. Landry

Clients and witnesses shall be advised not to bring children to court, unless in unusual circumstances where the child(ren) may be called as witnesses. Children, under the age of twelve, shall not be allowed in the courtroom without special permission of the court.

**Twenty-Eighth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of LaSalle

**Twenty-Ninth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of St. Charles

**Thirtieth Judicial District
Court**

Parish of Vernon

**Thirty-First Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Jefferson Davis

**Thirty-Second Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Terrebonne

Clients and witnesses shall be advised not to bring children to court, unless in unusual circumstances where the children may be called as witnesses. Children, under the age of twelve, shall not be allowed in the courtroom without permission of the court.

**Thirty-Third Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Allen

**Thirty-Fourth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of St. Bernard

**Thirty-Fifth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Grant

**Thirty-Sixth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Beauregard

Clients and witnesses shall be advised not to bring children to the courthouse. When a child is to be a witness in a proceeding, the child shall not be brought to the courthouse until the Court calls for their testimony. If the child is enrolled in school, they are to remain in school until called by the Court. Children shall not be allowed in the courtroom without special permission of the Judge.

Uncontested adoption hearings are the only exception to this rule.

**Thirty-Seventh Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Caldwell

**Thirty-Eighth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Cameron

**Thirty-Ninth Judicial
District Court**

Parish of Red River

**Fortieth Judicial District
Court**

**Parish of St. John the
Baptist**

Civil District Court

Parish of Orleans

Litigants and witnesses shall not bring children to Court without prior Court approval. Children are not allowed in the courtroom without special permission of the Judge. When the Court has given approval for a child to offer testimony or be interviewed by the Judge in chambers, the child shall be made available on a standby basis at a location other than the courthouse, until called by the Court.

Criminal District Court

Parish of Orleans

**Forty-Second Judicial
District Court**

Parish of DeSoto
