

ORLEANS PARISH JUVENILE COURT

ORDER

March 13, 2020

Acting in accordance with La. Const. Art. V, Sec. 1: pursuant to LSA R.S. 1:55; DUE TO THE covid-19 emergency as detailed in Louisiana State Governor John Bel Edward's Executive Department Proclamation Numbers 25 JBE 2020 Public Health Emergency – COVID-19 and 27 JBE 2020, the City of New Orleans Mayor La Toya Cantrell's Mayoral Proclamation of a State of Emergency Due to COVID-19, the Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson's letter dated March 12, 2020 to all Chief Judges in accordance with the inherent powers of this court, Chief Judge Candice Bates Anderson and the Judges of the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, in a meeting held March 13, 2020, adopting the COVID-19 policy of the Supreme Court,

Hereby Orders That,

Due to the unprecedented pandemic as referred in the emergency declarations, and in accordance with the Continuity of Operation Plan of the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court adopts the following emergency plan.

That Orleans Parish Juvenile Court will remain open on a limited basis until further notice during this pandemic for court settings restricted to continued custody hearings to detentions, emergency cases, and time-sensitive settings.

Following the lead of the La. Supreme Court and the most recent recommendations from the CDC, the goal of this Court is to reduce the number of people in a space at the same time in order to reduce people's exposure to covid-19.

That the Court will stagger essential court staff in attendance for court hearings to limit the pooling of people unnecessarily in a space at the same time;

That all Court contractors and employees who can work remotely from home are required to do so until further notice for their own health, their families' health, and the public's health;

That the Court expand the use of audio and/or video conferencing to include holding detentions continued custody hearings for delinquency, continued custody hearings, child in need of care cases, emergency cases, scheduling conferences and meetings, bail settings, and to facilitate attorneys needing to meet with their clients; and

That all attorneys, defendants, and witnesses with scheduled proceedings and notices to appear will receive a subpoena for their new court dates between April 13 and April 17, 2020. Phone calls will be made to the attorneys, defendants, and witnesses by the Youth and Family Specialists and subpoenas hand delivered to defendants and witnesses by the process servers.