

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

**BLAIR D. EDWARDS  
DISTRICT JUDGE, DIVISION I  
21<sup>ST</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE: MARCH 17, 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 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court, Division I – Juvenile court is taking every precaution to reduce exposure to and the spread of COVID-19.

Juvenile Court will be limiting the number of individuals that may enter the Courthouse and the Courtroom. 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:**

**Parents are to appear to court and sign for a notice for their next court date.**

\* Notices for new court dates are being served by Deputies and Clerks in front of courthouse.

\*An attachment will be issued on all parents who fail to appear.

\*Each notice will have the contact information of the Public Defender/Attorney for the Parent(s). The parent should call and consult their Public Defender/Attorney prior to the next court date.

\*Incarcerated parents shall NOT be transported.

\*Children are NOT permitted in Court.

\*Caseworkers MUST be available by phone.

**72s (CINC) -**

**Permitted in court:**

(1) Public Defender/ Attorney for the parent(s)

Assistant District Attorney,

(1) CAP (Juvenile) Attorney

(2) DCFS Courtroom liaisons

(1) CASA Supervisor

**Other personnel, permitted in Court:**

Court Reporter

Judge

Minute Clerk

Law Clerk

Intern

ADA Assistant

PD Assistant

Bailiff

\*No one else will be permitted in the courtroom or courthouse.

**ANSWERS/TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHT ANSWERS (CINC)-**

**Permitted in court:**

(1) Public Defender/ Attorney for the parent(s)

Assistant District Attorney

(1) CAP (Juvenile) Attorney

(2) DCFS Courtroom liaisons

(1) CASA supervisor

Other personnel, permitted in Court:

Court Reporter

Judge

Minute Clerk

Law Clerk

Intern

ADA Assistant

PD Assistant

Bailiff

\*No one else will be permitted in the courtroom.

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

**ADJUDICATIONS/ MOTIONS TO MODIFY (CINC)-**

Permitted in court:

(1) Public Defender/ Attorney for the parent(s)

Assistant District Attorney

(1) CAP (Juvenile) Attorney

(2) DCFS Courtroom liaisons

(1) CASA supervisor

Other personnel, permitted in Court:

Court Reporter

Judge

Minute Clerk

Law Clerk

Intern

ADA Assistant

PD Assistant

Bailiff

\*No one else will be permitted in the courtroom.

Adjudications/ Motions to Modify will be continued unless the parent informed their Public Defender/Attorney that they wished to stipulate prior to court. Stipulations shall be entered via telephone.

**REVIEWS/TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHT MOTIONS/PRE-TRIAL(CINC)-**

Permitted in Court:

(1) Public Defender/ Attorney for the parent(s)

Assistant District Attorney

(1) CAP (Juvenile) Attorney

(2) DCFS Courtroom liaisons

(1) CASA supervisor

Other personnel, permitted in Court:

Court Reporter

Judge

Minute Clerk

Law Clerk

Intern

ADA Assistant

PD Assistant

Bailiff

**DELINQUENCY MATTERS:**

**The juvenile and/or parent must appear and sign for notice of the next date.**

\*An attachment will be issued on all juveniles and parents who fail to appear.

\* Notices for new court dates are being served by Deputies and Clerks in front of courthouse.

\*Juveniles are NOT permitted in the Courtroom.

**72s** –

Permitted in court:

Assistant District Attorney

Juvenile Attorney

Other personnel, permitted in Court:

Court Reporter

Judge

Minute Clerk

Law Clerk

Intern

ADA Assistant

PD Assistant

Bailiff

To appear remotely:

Juvenile from Florida Parishes Juvenile Detention Center

Law enforcement officers

OJJ Probation Officer

**ANSWER-**

Permitted in court:

Assistant District Attorney

Juvenile Attorney

Other personnel, permitted in Court:

Court Reporter

Judge

Minute Clerk

Law Clerk

Intern

ADA Assistant

PD Assistant

Bailiff

To appear remotely:

The juvenile if held in FPJDC

Law Enforcement Officers

OJJ Probation Officer

The Court will accept either a denial or continuance and a new court date will be set.

**ADJUDICATION/DISPOSITION/REVIEWS/STATUS/RULES-**

Permitted in court:

Assistant District Attorney

Juvenile Attorney

Other personnel, permitted in Court:

Court Reporter

Judge

Minute Clerk

Law Clerk

Intern

ADA Assistant

PD Assistant

Bailiff

To appear remotely:

OJJ Probation Officer

All adjudications, dispositions, reviews, status hearings, and rules will be continued to a new date.

**ALL TRUANCY AND FINS MATTERS:**

**The juvenile and/or parent must appear and sign for notice of the next date.**

\*An attachment will be issued on parents who fail to appear, sign, and accept notice for the next court date.

All truancy and FINS matters will be continued.

**JUVENILE DRUG COURT:**

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

**Juveniles should appear for scheduled court dates at the drug court office for new court notices.**

**The juveniles will not appear in Court.**

All Drug Court staffings will take place via phone.

Best Regards,

Judge Blair D. Edwards

CJA/BDE