

ORLEANS PARISH JUVENILE COURT

STATE OF LOUISIANA

ORDER

Acting under the authority of Article V, Section 18 of the Constitution of 1974, and the inherent powers of this court, considering the continued spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Louisiana, Governor John Bel Edwards' renewal of the state of emergency for COVID-19 and extension and modification for emergency provisions in Proclamations Numbers 58 JBE 2020 and 59 JBE 2020, President Donald Trump's declaration of a national emergency on March 13, 2020, the Orders of this court and the Orders of the Louisiana Supreme Court, and PURSUANT to the provisions of R.S. 1:55, Ranord J. Darenburg, Judicial Administrator of the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court has requested the re-opening of the Sections of Court of the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court for the beginning May 18, 2020 with restrictions in place as updated information due to the emergency situation created by the COVID-19 virus becomes available.

In the interest of public safety and to protect the constitutional rights of Juveniles, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court will conduct emergency proceedings in delinquency and dependency cases consistent with the May 15, 2020 order by the Louisiana Supreme Court. Orleans Parish Juvenile Court will allow in-person filings at the Clerk of Court's Office, however encourages filings by other means including US Mail, facsimile at (504) 658-9570 and email with Clerk of Court at OPJCCOC@nola.gov. The Clerk of Court will accept bond payments by appointments made at the Juvenile Court website (<https://www.nola.gov/juvenile-court/>).

As set forth in Section H of the Proclamation Number 59 JBE 2020 by Governor John Bell Edwards, all legal deadlines shall be suspended until at least June 5, 2020. In accordance with the May 15, 2020 Orders set forth by the Louisiana Supreme Court, prohibitions on in-person proceedings are lifted, "courts may continue to take measures to limit access to courtrooms and other spaces, with minimum physical contact, to practice social distancing and limit in-person court capacity to 25% of the total capacity", time periods due to continuances of trials shall be excluded from speedy trial computations pursuant to law and presumptively constitute just cause, courts are further "instructed to follow all guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control, the President and the Governor, and to further limit access to courtroom and other spaces to the maximum number of people set forth in any future guideline or official proclamation that may be issued. All matters should continue to be conducted with the use of video and telephone conferencing whenever possible."

Acting in accordance with LA. Const. Art. V., Subsection I and the inherent power of this Court, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

The Sections of Court of Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana and the Orleans Parish Juvenile Clerk of Court's office shall be re-opened under the following

restrictions, May 18, 2020 for court proceedings until the pandemic exposure and risk has reduced in Orleans Parish.

- I. Capacity in the Juvenile Justice Center (Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, offices of the District Attorney and the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights) will be maintained at 25% of the total capacity, as determined by the State Fire Marshall, counting both the number of employees and members of the public present in the building at once.
- II. In-person hearings will be limited to only necessary hearings and parties present at hearings will be limited to only necessary parties. Pre-hearing conferences will be held via video or telephone conferencing to determine necessity of in-person hearings.
- III. All staff who can will be working remotely. Staff will enter the building on necessary business only.
- IV. Video hearings for all other proceedings will happen whenever possible, including youth at the Juvenile Justice Intervention Center, in Office of Juvenile Justice custody, in Department of Children and Families custody, or at home.
- V. The courthouse will be thoroughly sanitized once a week, and spot sanitized after each proceeding. All staff will clean after contact with surfaces and observe public health protocols.
- VI. Strict social distancing will be maintained outside and inside the building, requiring all persons to maintain six feet of distance between them.
- VII. Masks are required to be worn properly by everyone, including staff and the public, in the building.
- VIII. Temperature checks are required by everyone entering the building, including attorneys, judges, staff, and the public. No one with a fever (100.4 degrees F) will be allowed in the building.
- IX. Tents will be set up in the parking lot and outside the front entrance to aid the public and professionals determine whether they need to enter the building or not.
- X. People entering the building will receive a wrist band each day after it is determined the person is clear to enter the building. Persons exiting and then re-entering the building will be required to go through security processes again.
- XI. The Clerk's Office is open for filing, but email and fax filing is encouraged.

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court will abide by further orders of the Louisiana Supreme Court pursuant to this emergency should they be made.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA this 15th day of May 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Anderson', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval border.

Candice Bates Anderson, Chief Judge