

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JASPER COUNTY, MISSOURI  
JUVENILE DIVISION AT JOPLIN**

In re: )  
 ) Administrative Order 2020-11  
PHASE 1-3 PROCEDURES RESULTING )  
FROM THE COVID-19 )

**ORDER**

This order supersedes this Court’s Administrative Order 2020-10.

Pursuant to The Supreme Court of Missouri’s Operational Directives from May 4, 2020, effective May 16, 2020, as well as the Administrative Orders of the Twenty Ninth Judicial Circuit dated May 12, 2020, the following procedures are implemented in the Jasper County Juvenile Court until further notice, effective May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020:

1. The requirements of the Presiding Judge’s Order initiating Phase One in Jasper County are incorporated herein and to be fully followed, including space limitation and social distance requirements, wearing of facial masks and prohibition of guests and those who are at special risk. If anyone required to wear a mask refuses, the case will be continued.
2. It is important that cases continue to proceed and move forward in the best interest of the children for their benefit and welfare. However, each Judge or Commissioner maintains the discretion to conduct their docket in consideration of COVID-19 concerns and in consideration of the public and staff in the spirit of this order.
3. Only the following people will be allowed into hearings: parties and their attorneys as listed on the docket sheet. Only testifying agency personnel are permitted in the courtroom. Extended family must not be present in the building, and they will be instructed at the security station to return to their cars. Though their attendance is typically appreciated and merited, during phases one and two, placement providers are also excluded, and CASA is encouraged to submit written reports. Additionally, the Judges and Commissioner shall have the discretion to limit and exclude other individuals at any hearing to comply with the recommendation of the Missouri Supreme Court and the 29<sup>th</sup> Circuit Presiding Judge.
4. All juvenile court personnel are encouraged to take appropriate action consistent with the Administrative Order. This order is intended to be interpreted broadly for protection of the children, staff and the public.

**PHASE ONE**

5. Only 10 people are allowed in the courtroom in phase one. Any in-person hearing listed below that involves more than 10 people, inclusive of testifying witnesses, will be rescheduled until after the 29<sup>th</sup> Circuit progresses to “Phase 2.”

6. The Jasper County Juvenile Court will resume “in-person” hearings in Phase 1 involving the following cases:
  - Protective custody hearings
  - Detention hearings
  - Adjudications (and a Dispositional Hearings if it can be heard immediately following)
  - Motions to Modify
  - Uncontested Termination of Parental Rights

7. The Following Hearings *may* be heard in person or electronically, at the discretion of the Judge hearing the case:
  - Uncontested Transfer of custody
  - Uncontested Final adoptions

Uncontested Transfer of Custody hearings and Final Adoption hearings may still occur electronically.

8. In person hearings will be scheduled every 30 minutes. However, the Court cannot allow more than 10 people to congregate in our lobby/foyer. Upcoming cases will be “staged” in the entry way vestibule, foyer, and locker room of the building. Parties will be asked to exit the building immediately following their hearing.

9. Parents and attorneys are invited to utilize the attorney conference rooms between the waiting area and the Courtroom.

10. Counsel Status Hearings required by R.S.Mo. § 211.455 will continue to be held in all adoption matters, though in camera between the Judge/Commissioner and the JO. Guardian ad Litem are excused.

11. The following hearings will continue to be conducted by **Report Review** from both the assigned Supervising Agency case worker and the Juvenile Officer (and if applicable, the CASA worker). Many of these hearings are often generically referred to as “case reviews,” though they may have various other names (see the list below):

Dispositional hearings (if it was not held with Adjudication)

Dispositional review hearings

Permanency hearings

Permanency review hearings

Case reviews

Post-Permanency Hearings

Delinquency/Status probation review hearings

12. Contested Termination of Parental Rights Hearings requiring less than 10 participants in the courtroom, including witnesses, *may* be allowed at the discretion of the scheduled Judge or Commissioner. Counsel should request contested hearings through Belinda Kaderly, Legal Counsel for the Jasper County Juvenile Office, for preauthorization before scheduling or subpoenaing witnesses.

## PHASE TWO

13. Based on the size of the Juvenile Courtroom, in Phase Two and beyond, 16 people or more may be in the Courtroom at one time based on 6' social distancing requirements. The Court anticipates many hearings will be allowed to proceed "in-person" in this phase, though with the continued precautions as directed by the Missouri Supreme Court and the 29<sup>th</sup> Circuit Presiding Judge.
14. The following hearings will continue to be conducted by **Report Review** from both the assigned Supervising Agency case worker and the Juvenile Officer (and if applicable, the CASA worker). Many of these hearings are often generically referred to as "case reviews," though they may have various other names (see the list below):
  - Dispositional hearings (if it was not held with Adjudication)
  - Dispositional review hearings
  - Permanency hearings
  - Permanency review hearings
  - Case reviews
  - Post-Permanency Hearings
  - Delinquency/Status probation review hearings
15. Counsel Status Hearings required by R.S.Mo. § 211.455 will continue to be held in all adoption matters, though in camera between the Judge/Commissioner and the JO. Guardian ad Litem are excused.

## PHASE THREE

16. The Court anticipates most hearings will be allowed to proceed "in-person" in this phase, through with the continued precautions as directed by the Missouri Supreme Court and the 29<sup>th</sup> Circuit Presiding Judge. All hearings will be scheduled as "in-person" hearings, though each Judge or Commissioner maintains the discretion to conduct their docket in the consideration of COVID-19 concerns and in consideration of the public and staff and in the spirit of this order.
17. This Administrative Order remains in effect until further Order of this Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

5/15/2020

Hon. Joseph L Hensley  
Presiding Juvenile Court Judge  
29<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court, Jasper County, Missouri

