

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF MURFREESBORO,
RUTHERFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE
INRE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

FILED

MAR 17 2020

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O'CLOCK M
MELISSA HARRIS
DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER SUSPENDING IN-PERSON COURT PROCEEDINGS

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court has declared a state of emergency for the Judicial Branch of Tennessee government. A copy of the Supreme Court of Tennessee Order Number ADM2020-00428, filed March 13, 2020, is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. First and foremost, the Juvenile Court of Rutherford County, sitting in Murfreesboro, Tennessee is currently open and will remain open as of now under all circumstance, subject to the provision of said order. Emergency petitions will still need to be filed with the Clerk of the Court and those petitions will be presented for review by the Court immediately. All Orders lodged and submitted for approval will be submitted to the Clerk of the Court and submitted to the Court for approval. As to filings with the Court, that is controlled by the Clerk of the Court and any issues regarding that process shall be addressed to the Clerk of the Court.

All in-person proceedings in the Juvenile Court of Rutherford County are suspended from the close of business on Friday, March 13, 2020, through Tuesday, March 31, 2020, subject to the exceptions below. Non-emergency cases that are set for hearing during this period of time will be continued and reset to a future date. At this time the process for resetting cases is unknown.

Exceptions to this suspension of in-person court proceedings include, but are not limited to:

- Proceedings necessary to protect constitutional rights of delinquent defendants including detention related matters and plea agreements for DETAINED juveniles.
- Proceedings necessary to protect the constitutional rights of incarcerated individuals including bond-related matters and those adults detained for contempt related issues.
- Proceedings related to relief by a preliminary hearing where a Child Protective Order is issued
- Proceedings involving the Department of Children's Services emergency matters related to child protection, including surrenders
- Proceedings involving petitions for temporary injunctive relief

The Manner in which in-person court proceedings for the exceptions listed above are to be conducted as follows:

- All in-court proceedings shall be limited to attorneys, parties, witnesses, court deputies, court officers, and other necessary persons as determined by the Juvenile Judge
- Currently there will be only one hearing at a time. This may mean it may be necessary to stagger the cases as necessary
- All discussion regarding any delinquent matter between defense attorneys and the District Attorney shall be conducted outside of the courtroom and prior to the court hearing
- All discussion regarding emergency preliminary hearings for child protection and restraining orders shall be conducted outside of the courtroom and prior to the court hearing is necessary

The Court will continue to operate detention and Preliminary hearings regarding child protective orders and Temporary restraining Orders and that Temporary Docket Schedule effective March 16, 2020 through March 31, 2020 shall be:

Wednesday Mornings at 9:00 A.M.

- Bond hearings regarding IVD defendants
- Any contempt child support dockets in which a respondent is incarcerated
- Any motions for release filed by incarcerated respondents relating to child support

Monday and Wednesday Afternoon at 1:00 P.M. and Friday Mornings at 10:00 A.M.

- Proceedings related to relief by a preliminary hearing where a Child Protective Order is issued
- Proceedings involving the Department of Children's Services emergency matters related to child protection, including surrenders
- Proceedings involving petitions for temporary injunctive relief
- Any delinquency case that involves a juvenile currently in detention
- Trials for those juveniles in detention will occur as scheduled

This order expressly does not prohibit court proceedings by some type of tele-conferencing if able to be recorded, pursuant to statute. However, the type of hearing that would be appropriate for such proceeding will need to be approved by the Court.

In no way does this order affect this Court's consideration of matters than can be resolved by submitting an Agreed Order in civil matters. The Court is encouraging all attorneys to attempt to resolve any issues if possible.

Deadlines set forth in court rules, statues, ordinances, and administrative rules or otherwise that are set to expire between March 13, 2020 and March 31, 2020 are hereby extended through April

6, 2020. Statutes of limitations and statutes of repose that would otherwise expire during the period between March 13, 2020 and April 6, 2020 are hereby extended through April 6, 2020. Deadlines, statutes of limitations, and statutes of repose that are not set to expire between March 13, 2020 and April 6, 2020 are not extended or tolled by this order.

Protective child custody and temporary restraining orders that would otherwise expire between March 12, 2020 and March 31, 2020 are hereby extended until April 6, 2020.

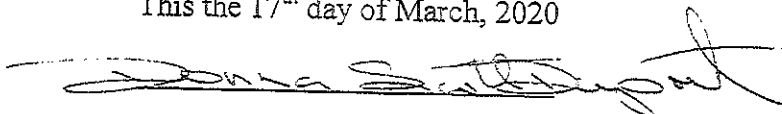
Under the terms of this order, the courts of Tennessee remain open, consistent with the Judicial Branch's obligation to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19.

This order is intended to be interpreted broadly for protection of the public from risks associated with COVID-19.

Unless there is a decision from the Rutherford County Mayor to close the Juvenile Court/Juvenile Services Building, located at South Church Street, Tennessee, the Juvenile Court Office will remain open and accessible. However, if possible, please attempt to conduct your business with our office by way of phone or email, rather than face to face contact.

IT IS THEREOFRE ORDERED.

This the 17th day of March, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna Scott Davenport", written over a horizontal line.

Donna Scott Davenport, Judge

Rutherford County Juvenile Court