

**In The Court of Common Pleas
Butler County Ohio
Juvenile Division**

In Re: Butler County Juvenile Court

Emergency Order

On 3-16-2020, this court issued an order and an accompanying press release regarding cases that will be canceled. This order amends that order as follows:

Effective on 6-15-2020, all hearings, subject to the exceptions below, will recommence. These hearings shall, whenever possible and as directed by the Administrative Judge, be conducted via telephone or video conferencing. Hearings that, due to court order or constitutional or statutory mandates, must occur with parties and witnesses present in the courtroom will proceed only if facilities available to the court can provide enough space for appropriate social distancing given the number of persons who will need to participate.

The following restrictions, as amended, shall remain in effect at least until September 15, 2020:

Only parties to cases, counsel, law enforcement, staff of the prosecutor's office, representatives of the press, persons seeking to file protection order cases, persons seeking emergency orders, persons with business with the clerk's office (see below) and witnesses will be permitted into the court facility.

Children will not be permitted to remain in the court facility except for purposes of providing testimony in a scheduled hearing or for the purpose of obtaining a protection order.

The previous order of this court regarding the wearing of facial coverings shall remain in effect. Appropriate social distancing shall be required both in the lobby and in the courtrooms.

The office of the Juvenile Clerk will remain open during ordinary business hours for limited purposes. Face-to-face filings will be permitted.

The Clerk's Office will continue to accept faxed filings of all pleadings submitted per the Ohio Rules of Juvenile Procedure and the Local Rules of this court provided that the faxed pleading is not required to be accompanied by a filing fee. The Court's fax # is 513-887-3698.

The Clerk's Office will also accept pleadings sent to the court by mail to 280 North Fair Avenue, Hamilton, Ohio 45011. All such pleadings must be presented in conformance with The Ohio Rules of Juvenile Procedure and the Local Rules and must be mailed to the court, complete with any required filing fee. Payment for all filing fees must accompany the pleadings and must be paid either by a cashier's check or a money order.

Persons seeking to obtain emergency orders or emergency intervention relating to the safety or welfare of any child during the time period set forth above should contact Children Services or Law Enforcement. The court will accept motions and complaints for emergency orders other than those filed by Children Services or a guardian *ad litem* (appointed by this court) regarding child custody or requests for restrictions on visitation or parenting time only under these circumstances:

- The person requesting the order presents the court with a current safety plan from Children Services designating that person as the caretaker of the child or indicating that visitation or parenting time has been restricted due to the terms of that plan, OR,
- The person filing alleges that the child is at imminent risk of physical injury, has notified Children Services regarding that risk, and provides the court with documentation that the child's circumstances are currently being investigated by Children Services or that Children Services has investigated the case and has made a finding that substantiates the allegation of physical injury, OR,
- The person filing alleges that the child is at imminent risk of sexual abuse, has notified Children Services regarding that risk, and provides the court with documentation that the child's circumstances are currently being investigated by Children Services or that Children Services has investigated the case and has made a finding that substantiates the allegation of sexual abuse, OR,
- The person filing alleges that the child is at risk of harm and provides the court with a law enforcement report which either places the child in the care of the person filing or instructs the filer to restrict, suspend, or modify the contact between the child and another person due to that risk, OR
- The person filing for custody alleges that the a parent, the parents, or the custodian of the child is deceased, that the only person entitled to legal notice of the case is the person filing, and the person filing attaches copies of death certificate(s) regarding the death(s) of the parent, parents, or custodian.

So Ordered



Ronald R. Craft

Administrative Judge

Butler County Juvenile Court