

MEMORANDUM

TO: All litigants, attorneys, and members of the public
FROM: Presiding Judge John Sumner, Juvenile Court, Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit
DATE: March 19, 2020

On March 14, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court issued an Order Declaring Statewide Judicial Emergency and in keeping with the Order and to ensure continued operations of the Juvenile Court of the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit, the court schedules will be modified to reduce the risk to staff, attorneys, parties, and the public.

Large gatherings of people should be avoided. To try and minimize the number or people assembled to conduct essential court operation and as long as there is a Judicial Emergency, **the following will occur in Juvenile Court:**

1. GENERAL CONCERNS

- a. No one should come to court if they are not feeling well. Please contact the assigned Judge's office to notify.
- b. If you are appearing for a court appearance, please leave all non-essential people at home. Avoid bringing children or family members, especially the elderly, to court.
- c. The court will remain open to the public, but they are encouraged to stay home. Only parties, attorneys, and necessary witnesses should appear for hearings that are going forward. Reasonable efforts, with court permission, will be made to allow appearance by video or phone.
- d. If any party request that a matter be heard on an emergency basis, a request must be sent to the assigned judge:
 - i. Judge John Sumner (678)493-6250 jbsumner@cherokeega.com
 - ii. Judge Jennifer L. Davis (678)493-6280 jldavis@cherokeega.com

2. INMATE TRANSPORT: When possible, video conferencing will be utilized.

3. COURT HEARINGS: Unless otherwise notified, Juvenile Court hearings will be held on Mondays and Thursdays at 8:30 am with the assigned judge hearing all matters set for that day. ONLY protective custody hearings for dependency cases AND detention hearings for delinquency cases will be heard. All other matters will be set at a later date. The court will accept consent orders via email. Emergency hearings will be set within judicial discretion.

4. TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDERS ASSIGNED TO JUVENILE COURT: The current Standing Order regarding the assignment of Temporary Protective Orders to Juvenile Court will remain in effect. Upon the filing of a Petition for Temporary Protective Order, the Clerk of Court shall notify the assigned judge of same. Requests for ex parte relief shall be considered by the assigned judge electronically, without the physical presence of the petitioner. Petitioners should be available by telephone if the judge wishes to hear evidence prior to the entry of any ex parte order. The 30 (thirty) day hearing date shall be issued by the Clerk of Court.

5. COURT CALENDAR:

March 23 Judge Davis 3-B

March 25 Temporary Protective Order hearings Judge Davis 3-B

March 26 Judge Davis 3-B

March 30 Judge Sumner combined Juvenile Court and Temporary Protective Order hearings 3-A

April 2 Judge Davis 3-B

April 6 Judge Sumner 3-A

April 9 Judge Sumner 3-A

April 13 Judge Davis 3-B

Hon. John Sumner
Presiding Judge Juvenile Court
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit