

**DIVISION JK REMOTE/IN PERSON PROCEDURES**  
**JUNE 21, 2021**

On June 21, 2021, the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit will transition out of Phase 2 of its Covid-19 Health and Safety Protocols and Operational Measures. Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC21-17(Fla. June 4, 2021) and AO 12.515-06/2021. In accord with the guidance given in the Administrative Orders of the Florida Supreme Court and the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, the following protocols and procedures will be followed in Division JK until further notice.

**DEPENDENCY**

**DEPENDENCY DOCKET MATTERS**

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, all dependency docket matters with the exception of Final Injunction Hearings will continue to be held **REMOTELY** on the JK link.

Final Injunction Hearings will be held **IN PERSON**. They will be scheduled to begin at the end of the docket in order to allow necessary counsel to transition from the remote docket to the courtroom. The Court anticipates scheduling these matters for a specific time in order to stagger hearings and prevent crowding. Non-parties may appear for these matters remotely.

All Final Injunction Hearings for which a Respondent has already been served with notice of a remote hearing will proceed remotely.

If any party or attorney wishes to appear in person for a particular dependency docket matter other than a final injunction hearing, or wishes to have the entire hearing heard in person, please file a written motion detailing the reasons for the request. Please include whether there are any objections to the request, and if all parties are in agreement that the matter should be held in person in whole or in part.

**ALL OTHER DEPENDENCY HEARINGS**

All **Termination of Parental Rights** adjudicatory hearings will be held in person, unless otherwise ordered by the Court upon agreement of the parties that the matter should be held remotely, or unless parties have already been given notice that their

trial will proceed remotely and re-notice is not feasible. Notice that a matter will be held remotely does NOT include parties who were advised by the Court that they were to be in touch with their attorney in order to confirm whether the matter would be remote or in person.

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, all other hearings, including dependency adjudicatory hearings and other evidentiary hearings, will continue to be held **REMOTELY**.

If any party or attorney wishes to appear in person for a particular dependency hearing, or wishes to have the entire hearing heard in person, please file a written motion detailing the reasons for the request. Please include whether there are any objections to the request, and if all parties are in agreement that the matter should be held in person in whole or in part.

#### **GENERAL PROCEDURES: DEPENDENCY**

In accord with the Administrative Orders, for **IN PERSON** hearings, all parties must physically be in the courtroom. Masks will not be required but any attorney, witness or party may choose to wear one. Social distancing will not be required, but the Court will make best efforts to separate individuals if requested.

Please be advised that if ANY attorney, witness or party has health issues and would like to appear remotely or would like accommodations in the courtroom (such as required masks and social distancing for all present), the Court will make best efforts to accommodate those requests. If all parties agree that an individual may appear remotely, an email sent to [CAD-DIVISIONJK@PBCGOV.ORG](mailto:CAD-DIVISIONJK@PBCGOV.ORG) will be sufficient notice that the individual's appearance will be remote. If there is not agreement about a remote appearance, please file a motion with the Court.

If a party has already been noticed for a remote hearing and re-notice for an in-person appearance is not logistically feasible or efficient, the party's attorney may send an email to [CAD-DIVISIONJK@PBCGOV.ORG](mailto:CAD-DIVISIONJK@PBCGOV.ORG) to advise the Court.

Unless they are to testify, case managers, participants, spectators and any other interested individuals may attend any hearing **REMOTELY**.

## DELINQUENCY

### DELINQUENCY DOCKET MATTERS

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, Calendar calls, Status Checks, Competency Hearings, Arraignments, and other non-evidentiary docket hearings will continue to be held **REMOTELY** on the JK link

If any party or attorney wishes to appear in person for a particular delinquency docket matter, or wishes to have the entire hearing heard in person, please file a written motion detailing the reasons for the request. Please include whether there are any objections to the request, and if all parties are in agreement that the matter should be held in person in whole or in part.

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, Plea Conferences and Disposition Hearings will be held **IN PERSON**.

All Plea Conferences and Disposition Hearings for which a Youth has already been served with notice of a remote hearing will proceed remotely unless otherwise requested by counsel for the Youth. If a Youth resides out of county and all parties agree to a remote plea conference or disposition hearing, an email sent to CAD-DIVISIONJK@PBCGOV.ORG will be sufficient notice that the Youth's appearance will be remote.

ALL IN PERSON DOCKET MATTERS MUST BE SCHEDULED FOR A SPECIFIC TIME IN ORDER TO STAGGER HEARINGS AND PREVENT CROWDING. PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO CAD-DIVISIONJK@PBCGOV.ORG AS SOON AS YOU KNOW THAT AN IN PERSON MATTER NEEDS TO BE SCHEDULED.

### ALL OTHER DELINQUENCY HEARINGS

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, all evidentiary hearings will be held **IN PERSON**. This includes Delinquency adjudicatory hearings and motion hearings. If a Youth has already been served with notice of a remote hearing, the hearing will proceed remotely unless otherwise requested by counsel for the Youth. If a Youth resides out of county, counsel may request that the hearing proceed remotely.

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, hearings involving solely legal argument will be held **REMOTELY**.

## GENERAL PROCEDURES: DELINQUENCY

In accord with the Administrative Orders, unless otherwise ordered by the Court, for **IN PERSON** hearings, all attorneys, witnesses and parties must physically be in the courtroom. Masks will not be required but any attorney, witness or party may choose to wear one. Social distancing will not be required, but the Court will make best efforts to separate individuals if requested.

Please be advised that if ANY attorney, witness or party has health issues and would like to appear remotely or would like accommodations in the courtroom (such as required masks and social distancing for all present), the Court will make best efforts to accommodate those requests. If all parties agree that an individual may appear remotely, an email sent to CAD-DIVISIONJK@PBCGOV.ORG will be sufficient notice that the individual's appearance will be remote. If there is not agreement about a remote appearance, please file a motion with the Court.

If a party has already been noticed for a remote hearing and re-notice for an in-person appearance is not feasible, the party's attorney may send an email to CAD-DIVISIONJK@PBCGOV.ORG to advise the Court.

Unless they are to testify, parents, family members, Juvenile Probation Officers, spectators, and any other interested individuals may attend any hearing **REMOTELY**.