

Fulton County Office of the Child Attorney, Operations Update, June 2020

Thank you for your interest in the Fulton County Office of the Child Attorney located in the Fulton County Juvenile Court. Until further notice in response to COVID-19, and for the health and safety of everyone entering the Fulton County Office of the Child Attorney, we have adopted the public health and safety guidelines of the court as follows:

ALL PERSONS entering the Romae T. Powell Juvenile Justice Center, Fulton County Juvenile Court, will be REQUIRED to wear a face mask or facial covering and will be subject to regular security screening, temperature screening using a no-touch thermometer. Any person who has a confirmed body temperature over 100.4 will be denied entry to the Juvenile Court building and instructed to contact the judge's chambers or office that they were required to report to so that the hearing or appointment can be rescheduled. In addition, health screening questions may be asked of those entering the building regarding symptoms of COVID-19 infection and based upon response may also be denied entrance and instructed to contact the judge's chambers or other destination to reschedule the hearing or appointment. Adherence to social distancing requirements is essential to maintaining the safety of those around you, as it is recommended that all persons stay at least six feet apart from others who do not reside in the same household. The use of elevators, restrooms, waiting areas, court rooms and other court house space will have a limited capacity in order to minimize the person to person contact that may be had while within the Juvenile Court building.

The Fulton County Juvenile Court will conduct essential hearings, including Preliminary Protective Hearings (PPH) and Detention Hearings for detained youth and children/youth who have been removed from the custody of their parents/legal guardians. **Detention Hearings will be calendared on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays pursuant to the [2020 Order of Business](#) and PPH's will be calendared at 2:00 pm on Mondays and 9:00 am on Thursdays; these hearings will be conducted via video conference** in accordance with Rule 12.2 of the Uniform Rules of Juvenile Court and the [Temporary Order Clarifying/Amending Juvenile Court Video Conferencing Rules](#) as issued by the Supreme Court of Georgia on March 31, 2020. This hearing schedule will continue until the Judicial Emergency Order ends or upon further order of the Court.

Judges will preside over the Detention Hearings and PPH's on a rotating schedule and may physically be in the court for such hearings. **All other parties are expected to participate in Detention and PPH hearings via video-conference or teleconference.** If a child, parent, legal guardian or caregiver does not have adequate equipment, telephone or other device to access the virtual hearings, access will be provided to the virtual hearings upon contacting the Fulton County Juvenile Court at **(404) 612-4402 or (404) 612-4419**. In the event, the judge is presiding remotely over a video-conference, notice shall be given that a proceeding will occur wholly by remote video-conference.

Essential hearings (other than Detention or PPH) are any matter that would affect the actual liberty interest of the party or must be heard to prevent actual harm to any individual and shall be scheduled in accordance with the existing provisions of the Georgia Juvenile Code and in accordance with the Order of Business, and shall be conducted while following the additional requirements of each individual appearing in person doing so with a mask or facial covering, use hand sanitizer upon entering and upon leaving the courtroom, in compliance with the public health guidelines followed by the court.

Non-essential hearings shall be conducted by video or teleconferencing. **Parties shall receive notice of the access required for video or teleconference hearing by contacting the Clerk of Court for each matter calendared.** Attorneys may contact the chambers of the judge assigned to their case with questions.

The Fulton County Sheriff's Office will direct DFCS Case Managers, attorneys, parties, and any individuals who appear at the court in person seeking public access to essential hearings or non-essential hearings may

gain access to the hearing, by contacting the Intake Unit at **(404) 612-4419** and follow the directives as provided.

The Fulton County Sheriff's Office will direct private citizens who appear at the court in person for other legal business to the Receptionist's Desk in the lobby of the Fulton County Juvenile Court or to contact **(404) 612-4419**, prior to entering any other department of the court. For further details of the Fulton County Juvenile Court's COVID-19 response, please visit the website at www.fultonjuvenilecourt.org