

WHEREAS a public health emergency has been declared because of the Coronavirus (also known as COVID-19) requiring the issuance of public health orders for the public to stay at home and/or maintain extended social distancing; and,

WHEREAS Colorado juvenile courts are an essential government service; and,

WHEREAS it is important to have consistency across JV cases and ensure continued protection of the due process rights of the parties; and,

WHEREAS consistency across JV cases may be accomplished in some aspects by a presiding judge order, the following presiding judge order is issued:

ORDERED

1. Appearance by electronic means for court hearings.

All appearances in JV cases shall be by electronic means for all hearings and for all parties, including parents and their counsel. Phone conferences or video chat such as WebEx shall be used. The court will initiate the telephone conference or video chat based on contact information submitted by the parties. This order applies to all hearings in JV cases, including shelter hearings and termination of parental rights hearings.

2. Electronic filings.

The court's electronic filing system known as JPOD is not currently available in JV case types. Nevertheless, parties shall e-mail motions and pleadings to the following e-mail address during this time: DenverJuvenileSubmissions@judicial.state.co.us. The parties may also, in-person file or mail a copy of the pleading to the court. In Denver Juvenile Court, a "lock box" shall be placed outside of the clerk's office where parties may deposit their motions or pleadings without face-to-face contact with a person. Time frames for filing pleadings and motions are suspended until May 18, 2020.

3. Returning children home.

Whether to return a child home shall be made on an individual case-by-case basis by the individual judicial officer while keeping in mind that Colorado law requires decisions to be made in the best interest of the child. Children shall not remain in foster care solely because of the pandemic. Rather, if a child can be returned home safely in spite of the pandemic, it is the intention of this order that return home shall happen in a safe manner as determined by the individual judicial officer.

4. Visitation.

The court shall continue to make decisions regarding visitation between children and parents. The court is mindful that the law requires visitation services to be provided. In Denver Juvenile Court, in person visitations are suspended until further order of the court but visitation by phone or video chat shall continue. This order may be modified by the individual judicial officer on a case-by-case basis based on the best interest of the child. Parents are authorized

to travel to wi-fi locations to visit with their child. Likewise, sibling visits shall continue via phone or video chat.

5. Family engagement meetings.

Family engagement meetings shall continue, but shall continue by electronic means such as phone conference or video chat.

6. Placement reviews.

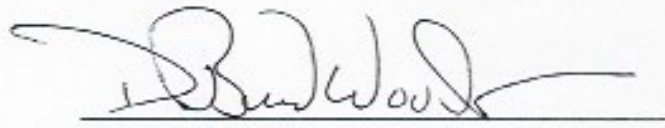
The court shall continue to review the need for placement of a child outside of the home on a case-by-case basis. The parties may contact the court for a forthwith review in cases where that is deemed necessary. The court, on a case-by-case basis, shall determine whether a forthwith hearing by electronic means is necessary and shall notify the parties.

7. Duty to confer.

Colorado law already requires parties to confer before seeking court intervention in JV matters. This legal requirement is heightened by the current pandemic. Accordingly, parties shall confer by electronic or other means before bringing a matter to court. The purpose of conferring shall be to reach stipulations whenever possible and to narrow the issues to be brought to the court's attention. Stipulations shall be filed with, reviewed and approved by the court.

SO ORDERED THIS 27 DAY OF MARCH, 2020.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Wood", is written over a horizontal line.

Presiding Judge