



Murray County Juvenile Court



P.O. Box 1129
121 North 4th Avenue
Chatsworth, Georgia 30705
Phone (706) 517-1400 ext.9
Fax (706) 517-8713

March 18th, 2020

CIRCUIT JUDGE

Jason Souther
Whitfield County
Murray County

Re: COVID-19 Court Operations

To Whom It May Concern:

STAFF

Alisha Scott
Clerk of Court

Hilary Stanley
Deputy Clerk

Heather Lynthlin
Secretary

In an effort to protect the health, safety and liberty of all citizens in this State, the Georgia Supreme Court has declared a statewide judicial emergency that affects all courts in the state.

Therefore, the Murray County Juvenile Court will hear only essential matters. The following types of cases are considered essential matters:

- Preliminary Protective Hearings in Dependency cases subsequent to a child's removal by the Department of Family and Children Services;
- Delinquency Detention Hearings, Arraignments, Adjudicatory Hearings and Disposition Hearings for children in secure detention only; and
- Continued Custody Hearings for children detained in Child in Need of Services cases.

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Jewell Jackson
JPPS II

Rubi Perez
JPPS II

Kellie Payne
Secretary I

Effective March, 19, 2020, all Murray County Court offices will be closed to public access until April 6, 2020. Murray County Juvenile Court traffic and supervision fees can be paid by mail with a money order. Please include the child's name and/or case number. Payments can also be made online at www.murraycojuvenilepmts.com, or by phone at 1 (844) 293-3737. Petitions, motions, and/or orders can be received by mail or email only. Please email to murraycountyjuvcourt@murraycountygga.gov

Also, beginning April 1, 2020, the Court will consider Dependency Adjudicatory Hearings for cases involving custody to the Department of Family and Children Services only and Motions to Vacate Custody as essential matters.

All visitations concerning children under a valid Dependency Order from this Court will occur by either telephone call, video call or other similar non-face-to-face medium at the same frequency and in the same durations (when feasible) as ordered by the Court in each particular case. This is in effect until April 1, 2020.

All other matters are considered non-essential and will be rescheduled for a date after May 1, 2020. Juvenile Court staff are working as quickly as possible to reschedule all non-essential hearings and will send out new service as soon as possible.

The COVID-19 health crisis is a fluid situation. The Court will reevaluate this protocol as is necessary. Should you have any questions, please contact the Court Administrator or the Clerk of Court.

Thank you for your understanding and patience regarding this matter. Please stay safe and healthy.

Murray County Juvenile Court.