

**IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY
WESTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE:

TEMPORARY REDUCTION OF SERVICES
IN RESPONSE TO JUDICIAL EMERGENCY
March 31, 2020

**ORDER FOR TEMPORARY REDUCTION OF COURT OPERATOINS
AND TO ALLOW FOR HEARINGS TO BE CONDUCTED BY REMOTE MEANS**

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Georgia has declared a statewide judicial emergency in the State of Georgia based upon the continued transmission of Coronavirus/COVID-19 throughout the State and the potential for infection of those who work in or are required to appear in our courts, and it appears that local action is necessary to further protect the health and safety of all citizens of the community of Athens-Clarke County and of the State of Georgia,

IT IS, THEREFORE, HEREBY ORDERED that all matters set for routine judicial review considered nonessential, are removed from the calendar, and considered continued for good cause unless and until the Statewide Judicial Emergency is no longer in effect. Any youth in whose interest a dependency matter is convened shall not be transported to the Court facilities unless an order is secured in writing by the youth's court appointed counsel at least 48 hours prior to any hearing during this time.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that where an immediate safety or liberty concern is present requiring the attention of the court as soon as available, including but not limited to preliminary protective hearings required by law; requests for delinquent and CHINS warrants deemed necessary for the safety of a youth and the community; continued custody hearings for youth taken into custody without a warrant, that such matters may be considered by the Court via remote means with the consent of all parties and counsel, and that parties and counsel may appear remotely when

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THIS 31st DAY OF March 2020
Regina Thomas
CLERK

possible, and that testimony may be taken by electronic means such as video conferencing and telephonic means.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all detention decisions be judicially approved for delinquent youth to be admitted to an RYDC for the duration of the judicial emergency.

All delinquency matters are considered essential operations of the court, especially when youth are detained, but consent motions for continuances during the period of judicial emergency shall be accepted as motions to continue for good cause and said matters shall be removed from the calendar and rescheduled as soon as practicable.

The Georgia Supreme Court's ORDER DECLARING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY specifically "suspends, tolls, extends, and otherwise grants relief from any deadlines or other time schedules or filing requirements imposed by otherwise applicable statutes, rules, regulations, or court orders, whether in civil or criminal cases or administrative matters, including but not limited to any: . . . (5) deadline or other schedule regarding the detention of a juvenile; . . . and (11) such other legal proceedings as determined to be necessary by the authorized judicial officer.

Therefore, all statutory time limits in matters pending in this court are considered tolled. The Court remains available to take up matters that require immediate attention as requested by any party with a showing of good cause.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that in any dependency matter considered by the court during the period indicated by the Supreme Court of Georgia, foster parents, Court appointed special advocates, Guardians ad litem, shall be excused from personal attendance at hearings and the Court may consider reports filed in writing as if the party were present.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 31st day of March, 2020.



Judge Robin Shearer
Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court
Western Judicial Circuit