

Juvenile Court
STATE OF LOUISIANA
NEW ORLEANS

Order for Recommencing Limited In-Person Hearings
May 24, 2021

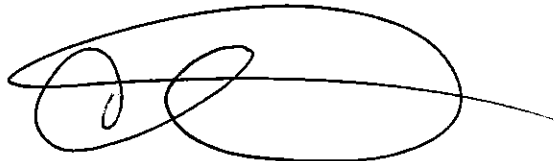
Pursuant to Louisiana Supreme Court Order of January 11, 2021, acting under the authority of Article V, Section 1 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and in compliance with the declarations of Governor John Bell Edwards, the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court “in consideration of ongoing public health recommendations to reduce the risk of exposure to the Coronavirus and slow the spread of the disease while balancing the need to protect the constitutional rights and public safety of the citizens of the state by maintaining access to Louisiana courts,” Orleans Parish Juvenile Court will be implementing the following plan to gradually and safely begin conducting limited in-person court proceedings in some non-emergency matters. As this situation remains ongoing and constantly changing, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court will follow guidelines and directions issued by the Center for Disease Control, the President of the United States, the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Governor of Louisiana, and the Mayor of the City of New Orleans.

1. Orleans Parish Juvenile Court will remain open during normal business hours of 8:30 am-4:00 pm Monday through Friday, located inside the Juvenile Justice Center located at 1100 Milton Street, New Orleans, LA 70122, subject to the following limitations.
2. Orleans Parish Juvenile Court will continue to conduct business by means other than in-person hearings and continue to increase the use of telephonic and video conferencing (ZOOM/WebEx) or other means that do not require in-person appearances with in-person appearances used as a last resort after reasonable consideration of alternatives. This practice is intended to protect the safety of citizens and is aligned with guidance from the Louisiana Supreme Court order of January 11, 2021, that “Courts are encouraged to conduct remote proceedings by telephone, video, teleconferencing, other means that do not involve in-person contact with the consent of all parties and the judge.”
3. All dockets will be reviewed at least seven (7) days in advance of scheduled proceedings by the Judge and staff. The Judge and staff may confer with attorneys where appropriate, determine whether the case is ready for a hearing, and confirm the manner of hearing or proceeding by either creating a conferencing (ZOOM/WebEx) link or arrange for timely service of process for a future in-person hearing date. Cases may be staggered in increments of time rather than a standard docket call time. (Please consult individual court sections for specific section procedures). Necessary documents, reports or other exhibits must be logged with the Clerk of Court prior to the hearing.
4. New juvenile arrests will continue to be judicially reviewed within hours. Detention hearings will continue to be held daily (Monday-Friday) beginning and 12:00 pm until completed. Any in-person detention hearings will be conducted at staggered times in thirty-minute increments pursuant to guidance by the Louisiana Supreme Court order advising courts to institute “measures to limit access to courtrooms and other spaces, with minimum physical contact, to practice social distancing and limit in-person court capacity”.
5. Juveniles participating in court programs, on probation, house arrest, or any other program that requires regular contact or meetings must continue to report as scheduled by contacting the advocate, case manager, probation officer prior to the scheduled meetings. Court staff will provide meeting reminders by methods of contact agreed upon by the parties.

6. Attorneys are strongly encouraged to mail, email, or fax pleadings to the Clerk of Court's office (filing details can be located on the court website) rather than coming into the courthouse.
7. Court Security Staff will be available at the front door of the Juvenile Justice Center to answer questions and direct the public as appropriate. Court staff will continue to check in at the designated entrance. Screening for visitors and staff will continue and be accomplished with touchless thermometers. Adequately spaced chairs will remain in the courthouse lobby.
8. Staff and visitors will continue to be required to wear masks while inside the Juvenile Justice Center building. Gloves and masks are available upon request to all staff and visitors. All staff members are expected to report to work daily. The Administrator may adjust staff levels to meet obligations of the Court while continuing to limit the presence of some staff members who receive specific and individual authorization to work remotely.
9. Because most Juvenile Court hearings are closed to the public, the number of people inside a courtroom at any given time is naturally limited. Within the courtrooms, attorneys and litigants will be asked to distance themselves from others.
10. The Orleans Parish Juvenile Court is taking every reasonable precaution to ensure the best sanitary practices. These include frequent disinfecting of regularly touched surfaces, restrooms, and waiting areas, making hand sanitizers available, and requiring staff members and visitors to strictly adhere to contact instructions promulgated by the health experts in addition to the mandated requirements above.

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court may issue subsequent orders in connection with other direction regarding this matter as necessary to address the current status and circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Orleans Parish Juvenile Court will forward a copy of all orders to the Louisiana Supreme Court, City of New Orleans, and the court website at www.nola.gov/juvenile-court.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chief Judge Candice Bates Anderson

Given at New Orleans, Louisiana this 24th day of May 2021

COPY OF ORDER TO:

All Judges of the Orleans parish Juvenile Court

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