

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF  
COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

FILED

2022 MAR -7 PM 4:08

CLERK'S OFFICE  
JUVENILE COURT  
COBB CO., GA

**AMENDED ORDER**

To minimize the risk to public health and safety that COVID-19 has posed, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Cobb County Juvenile Court will implement the following procedures, beginning on March 7, 2022, and ending on April 2, 2022 or until further order of the court:

**1. GENERAL CONCERNS**

- a. All Juvenile Court hearings will be in person and virtually accessible for those who have permission from the court to appear virtually (see Section 2 below).
- b. All parties shall appear in person unless otherwise ordered.
- c. If you are appearing in person for a court hearing, avoid bringing non-party children or family members, especially the elderly, to court.
- d. All persons entering Cobb County Juvenile Court shall comply with the current DPH and CDC guidelines and recommendations, Executive Orders, and Orders from the Chief Judge of the Cobb County Superior Court, including mask requirements and limitations on room capacity.
- e. Persons who have been granted permission from the court to participate or observe a scheduled hearing virtually may email [cejcvirtual@cobbcounty.org](mailto:cejcvirtual@cobbcounty.org) the Friday before the court hearing. Please include your name, the subject child's name, and the date and time of the hearing in your email.
- f. If any party requests that a matter be heard on an emergency basis, a request must be sent to the judicial assistant for the assigned judge.
  - i. Judge J. Hamby or Judge W. Grannis – Contact Donelle Keaton at [Donelle.Keaton@cobbcounty.org](mailto:Donelle.Keaton@cobbcounty.org) (770) 528 – 2428
  - ii. Judge A. Patterson or Judge K. West – Contact Star Simmons at [Gayle.Simmons@cobbcounty.org](mailto:Gayle.Simmons@cobbcounty.org) (770) 528 – 2224

**2. ALL HEARINGS**

- a. Parties, attorneys, and necessary witnesses shall appear in person unless any of the parties are at high risk from severe illness from COVID-19 and request to attend the hearing virtually for legitimate health and safety reasons.
- b. The parties who are requesting to appear virtually will file notice with the Court seven (7) days prior to the hearing, unless there is a health-related emergency due to COVID-19.
- c. The Court may conduct a status hearing to determine if said parties may appear virtually.
- d. The Court shall give appropriate consideration and deference to those persons who wish to attend virtually for legitimate health and safety reasons related to COVID-19.
- e. The Court shall not require the public filing of any person's private health information to support such request.
- f. Each judge, at his or her discretion, may approve any parties to appear virtually.

3. **NOTICE TO THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:** Adult inmates held at the Cobb County Adult Detention Center and juveniles held at youth detention centers will participate in court hearings in person unless otherwise ordered by the Court.
4. **PRELIMINARY PROTECTIVE HEARINGS and DELINQUENCY DETENTION HEARINGS** will be heard by the designated on-call judge pursuant to the schedule below on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons at 2:00 p.m., except on holidays.
5. **ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS, PROGRAMS AND ON-SITE SERVICES**
  - a. All Accountability/Specialty Courts are to be conducted in person or as designated by the judge.
  - b. All group programs that are scheduled to be conducted on-site at the Juvenile Court are to be handled in person or as designated by the judge.
  - c. If there are any questions regarding individual services, parties are to contact the Accountability Court Coordinator or Probation Supervisor.

**6. SCHEDULE**

- a. The judges alternate dependency and delinquency cases in the following manner:

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Judge Hamby	Dependency	Delinquency	Dependency	Delinquency	Special Set/Individual Hearings
Judge Patterson	Delinquency	Dependency	Delinquency	Dependency	Special Set/Individual Hearings
Judge Grannis	Dependency	Delinquency	Dependency	Delinquency	Special Set/Individual Hearings
Judge West	Delinquency	Dependency	Delinquency	Dependency	Special Set/Individual Hearings

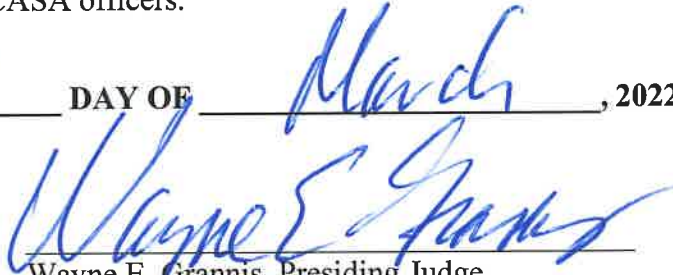
- b. See schedule below:
  - i. On Call Judge
    1. This judge is on call 24-hours a day from Monday at 9:00 a.m. until the following Monday at 9:00 a.m.
    2. This judge will hear Detention and Preliminary Protective Hearings each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 2:00 p.m. except on holidays. Additionally, they are available for verbal removal decisions on a 24-hour basis.
    3. If necessary, this judge will hear adjudications with short time limitations and emergencies for all judges.

4. The judge may set five cases at 9 a.m. and five cases at 2 p.m.
  5. To limit the volume of cases, no hearings will be set on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays that will conflict with the 2:00 p.m. detention calendar.
- c. The following schedule will be implemented from March 7, 2022 until April 2, 2022 or until further notice:

WEEK	Judge	Judge	Judge On Call	Judge
03/07/22	West	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby
03/14/22	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
03/21/22	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby	West
03/28/22	West	Hamby	Patterson	Grannis

- d. Cobb County Juvenile Court currently has two waiting rooms that have been transformed to comply with social distancing measures.
- e. DFCS employees, children in DFCS care, and foster parents will be admitted to separate office/areas in the DFCS suite within the courthouse.
- f. Everyone that currently has an office in the building will report back to their offices when not on an active case in court. The courtroom clerk will call them to return to court when their case is called, unless otherwise directed by the judge.
- g. CASA volunteers will appear in person for all hearings and will wait for cases on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor as directed by CASA officers.

SO ORDERED, THIS THE 7 DAY OF March, 2022.

  
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 Wayne E. Grannis, Presiding Judge  
 Cobb County Juvenile Court