

IN RE: MODIFICATIONS : IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
 TO THE DEPENDENCY COURT'S : OF BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
 FUNCTION DURING THE BERKS : JUVENILE DIVISION
 COUNTY JUDICIAL EMERGENCY :
 DUE TO COVID-19 : NO. 20-3264
 : CP-CV-A.D. 17-2020
 : SUPREME COURT NO. 53 MM 2020



Order 20-3264
Berks County Prothonotary



ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 19th day of March, 2020, it is hereby ORDERED,
 ADJUDICATED, and DECREED that, effective immediately:

1. All Review hearings, motions hearings (with the exception of emergency motions as set forth below), Adjudicatory hearings without prior removal of the child(ren), and related dependency matters such as Termination of Parental Rights hearings and Adoptions shall be continued according to the following schedule, subject to request for earlier review following expiration of this Order:
 - a. Review hearings and motions shall be scheduled by individual order; and
 - b. Adjudicatory hearings shall be set to be heard within one month of the expiration of this Order.
2. Judicial Conferences shall be cancelled.
3. Written motions practice shall be utilized to the full extent possible pursuant to Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure 1344. Upon the filing of a written emergency motion with cause for the emergency specified therein, the assigned Judge shall be notified who shall schedule a hearing on same.
4. Shelter Care hearings (72 hour hearings) shall be limited to those

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circumstances where an Emergency Protective Custody order has been obtained.

5. Adjudicatory Hearings with prior removal of the child(ren) shall be heard as scheduled unless the parties stipulate to a continuance.

6. Participation in hearings shall be limited to the attorneys, litigants, witnesses, and participants in judicial proceedings (this does not include friends or family members of the above) pursuant to the Emergency Judicial Order No. 20-3264 regarding access to the Berks County Courthouse and Services Center dated March 17, 2020 with the following additional considerations:

a. Telephone testimony is encouraged for all parties and witnesses;

b. Special consideration for children:

i. Non-verbal children shall not attend the hearing or be brought to court;

ii. Verbal children who are not capable of effective electronic communication with counsel shall be considered on a case by case basis as to whether they should attend the hearing by phone/videoconference or be brought to court;

iii. Verbal children capable of effective electronic communication with counsel shall be made available by phone or videoconference;

iv. Any child not seen in person shall be scheduled to appear in court within one month of the expiration of this Order.

c. Non-parties and non-witnesses shall be excluded from the Berks County Courthouse and Berks County Services Center as more fully set forth in the Emergency Judicial Order No. 20-3264 dated March 17, 2020.

7. This Order shall remain in effect as long as and in coordination with the Emergency Judicial Order No. 20-3264 dated March 17, 2020 (currently providing for expiration on April 14, 2020).

BY THE COURT:

Thomas G. Parisi

Thomas G. Parisi, President Judge

Mary Ann Ullman

Mary Ann Ullman,
Administrative Judge of Dependency Court

cc: Honorable Jeffrey Sprecher
Honorable J. Benjamin Nevius
Hearing Officers
Guardians *ad Litem*
Contracted Parent Attorneys
BCCYS

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Extract from the record of said court

Certified this 19th day of March 2020

JAMES P. TROUTMAN

Clerk of Common Pleas ~ Criminal Division

per Denise L. Crouse Deputy