

IN RE: MODIFICATIONS TO THE DEPENDENCY COURT'S FUNCTION DURING THE  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY JUDICIAL EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19

DEPENDENCY COURT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, the 17<sup>th</sup> 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 will be scheduled by individual order and set to be heard in June; and
  - b. Adjudicatory hearings will be set to be heard within one month of the expiration of this Order.
2. Judicial Conferences shall be canceled.
3. Written motions practice shall be utilized to the full extent possible pursuant to Rule of Juvenile Court Procedure 1344. Upon the filing of a written emergency motion with cause for the emergency specified therein, the dependency court administrator shall be notified who shall promptly schedule a hearing on same.
4. Shelter Care hearings (72 hour hearings) shall be limited to those circumstances where an Emergency Protective Custody order has been obtained.
5. Adjudicatory Hearings with prior removal of the child(ren) will 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 Administrative Order regarding Facilities Access dated March 16, 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 will not be brought to court;
    - ii. verbal children who are not capable of effective electronic communication with counsel will be considered on case by case basis as to whether to be brought to court;
    - iii. verbal children capable of effective electronic communication with counsel will be made available by phone or videoconference;
    - iv. any child not seen in person will be scheduled to appear in court within one month of the expiration of this Order.
  - c. non-parties and non-witnesses will be excluded from the Dennis Marion Public Services Building and any judicial facility as more fully set forth in the Administrative Order regarding Facilities Access dated March 16, 2020.
7. This Order shall remain in effect as long as and in coordination with the Judicial Emergency Declaration dated March 16, 2020 (currently providing for expiration on April 14, 2020).

BY THE COURT:

 \_\_\_\_\_, P.J.

President Judge Edward E. Guido