

**IN THE GENERAL SESSIONS COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, TENNESSEE AT  
JACKSON, JUVENILE DIVISION**

**IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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**ORDER**

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This cause came on to be heard due to the Tennessee Supreme Court order, filed the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, suspending all in-person juvenile court proceedings except for emergency circumstances. The Madison County Juvenile Court is working diligently to plan the implementation of recommendations and orders during the uncertainties of the following weeks, as well as to address any emergencies that may arise. Pursuant to the order, most in-person court hearings at Madison County Juvenile Court will be rescheduled. Following the recommendations of public health agencies related to the COVID-19 virus, the Madison County Juvenile Court is taking appropriate further precautions.

The AOC order is currently in effect until March 31<sup>st</sup> and will most likely be continued for an additional thirty (30) days. Effective Monday, March 16, 2020 the following will occur (subject to further changes as circumstances change):

1) Madison County Juvenile Court Clerk's Office will remain open during regular business hours for the limited purposes of accepting purge payments for child support, restitution court costs for Juvenile Court matters, and for the filing of probate and juvenile related matters, at the Juvenile Courthouse located at 110 Irby Street. Please note that no court dates, other than exempt emergency matters, will be set until the mandate for in-person hearings has been lifted. The Child Support Division located at 225 Martin Luther King Jr Drive has been closed to the public; however, is available by phone.

2) The Court will only hear emergency child safety cases and constitutionally required matters.

3) Detention hearings will be held daily on an as needed basis as constitutionally required.

4) All other trials, appearances, settlement conferences and reviews will be continued. The court will notify parties as to when those cases will be reset.

5) The following programs and/or regular meetings will be cancelled until further notice:

Madison County Juvenile Teen Court

Madison County Juvenile Advisory Board Meetings

Madison County Juvenile Visitation Mediation Classes

Madison County Juvenile Foster Care Review Board

Evening Reporting Center (ERC)

Safe Haven Supervised Visitations

Madison County Juvenile Safe Baby Court

Madison County Juvenile Truancy Board

6) Juveniles on probation, electronic monitoring, house arrest and any other program that requires regular meetings or telephonic reporting MUST continue to report by telephone and contact their probation officer prior to scheduled meetings for updates and/or rescheduling purposes.

7) Attorneys are welcomed to file pleadings in the Clerk's Office. The Court staff will determine when to schedule non-emergency petitions.

8) Court Security Staff are available at the front door of each location to answer questions and direct the public accordingly.

The Court is taking every reasonable precaution within the facilities to ensure the best sanitary practices. These include frequent disinfecting of all surfaces, restroom and waiting areas and encouraging staff members to strictly adhere to contact instructions promulgated by the health experts. This situation continues to evolve quickly and we will continue to monitor closely in order to make adjustments as needed.

For Court-related questions please call 731-423-6073.


For Clerk-related questions please call 731-423-6126, or Child Support Division 731-423-5880.

To report child abuse or neglect in Tennessee call 877.237.0004.

DCS Child abuse hotline: <https://www.tn.gov/dcs/program-areas/child-safety/reporting/childabuse.html>

It is therefore ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the foregoing findings and orders are implemented effective today and are to remain in effect until March 31, 2020.

Entered this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
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CHRISTY R. LITTLE  
JUDGE