

IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IOWA

IN THE MATTER OF)	
THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT'S)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
COMBINED ORDER REGARDING)	No. 2020-11
COVID-19 PROCEDURES IN JUVENILE)	
MATTERS)	

Pursuant to the Covid-19 pandemic and April 6, 2020 Supervisory Order of the Iowa Supreme Court, this District incorporates all of the provisions of the Supreme Court's Order. Further, this Court now issues this Order to define how various juvenile court matters are being handled in the 7th Judicial District. Please review this Order carefully as many things have changed as this pandemic has continued to evolve. The purpose of this Order is to combine all previous orders and procedures we have established during this pandemic for all criminal and juvenile court matters in all of our district's counties. This Order's purpose is to keep the public safe and keep our employees as safe as possible by eliminating interaction between the two groups.

EMERGENCY/ESSENTIAL MATTERS:

The Clerk's offices remain open for the public to come in for emergency orders such as domestic abuse protective orders, involuntary commitments, and removal of children from home, etc. Those are the only matters for which we want the public, including attorneys, to enter the courthouse.

Unfortunately, it may be necessary to allow some public in for an initial appearance on an indictable misdemeanor if they are not in custody. This should be limited as much as possible and done in writing if possible.

CRIMINAL:

Misdemeanor sentencing hearings will be held telephonically, via video-conferencing¹ or in writing. No parties or attorneys should appear in person.

Misdemeanor pleas shall all be done in writing.

Bond reviews shall be done by telephone or video-conferencing.

Pretrial conferences can be held only by telephone and for the purpose of resolving a case through a plea and sentencing.

Motions to Withdraw, Criminal Motions for New Attorneys shall be done by telephone or video-conferencing. Defendant will need to file a waiver of personal presence or agree on the record the matter can be heard telephonically or via video-conferencing. Defendant must appear on the telephone or via video-conferencing.

Substantive criminal motions (suppress, dismiss, in limine, etc.) will be continued to a date closer to the trial date, if practical. If they are heard during this COVID-19 pandemic, they shall be heard telephonically or via video-conferencing. Defendant must appear on the telephone or via video-conferencing.

Preliminary Hearings shall be conducted via telephone or video-conferencing.

Initial appearances or arraignments can be waived by defendant and the waiver does not need to be under oath.

Presentence Investigation Reports may be shared with defendants in advance of sentencing, notwithstanding Iowa Code section 901.4.

¹Throughout this Order, video-conferencing is referenced, which means use of Go To Meeting or video from a jail.

Criminal Court Debt delinquency has been suspended by the Governor. In addition, the Judicial Branch has set up a state-wide telephone system for people to call to make payments electronically on their court debt obligations.

CIVIL:

Juvenile Guardianships and Conservatorship must follow the Supreme Court's April 6, 2020 Order, however, they shall be done via telephone or video-conferencing.

JUVENILE:

Juvenile non-delinquency matters shall be continued to a date no earlier than June 15 or conducted with the parties and/or participants appearing by telephone or video-conferencing at the discretion of the court.

Juvenile Delinquency matters shall be subject to the provision of the Supreme Court's order regarding criminal proceedings. Juvenile Court Officers should limit their contact with the public, including the youth with whom they work, and conduct that work via telephone or video-conferencing.

CINA matters shall be conducted via telephone or video-conferencing as stated in the Supreme Court's April 6, 2020 Supervisory Order.

SUMMARY:

This Order merely supplements the Supreme Court's April 6, 2020 Order. Also, please refer to the Supreme Court's Supervisory Order dated April 2, 2020 for jury trial dates, speedy trial dates, statutes of limitations tolling and all other matters contained therein.

I thank everyone for their patience and cooperation during this novel and difficult time. As things continue to develop and possibly change, I will keep you up to date.

DATED: April 6, 2020.

ALL ABOVE IS SO ORDERED.

/S/

MARLITA A. GREVE
CHIEF JUDGE
7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT