

For Release 3-16-2020

Press Release and Notice

In light of the states of emergency as declared by President Trump and Governor DeWine and per the direction of Judges Ronald R. Craft and Kathleen D. Romans, the Juvenile Court of Butler County is taking the following proactive steps at this time to maintain essential services while mitigating the risk of infection and the spread of COVID-19.

Effective from 3-16-2020 until 4-3-2020, all non-essential hearings, defined below, in the Juvenile Court will be canceled and rescheduled to later dates. In addition, the Juvenile Court Work Program will be canceled until further notice.

The following hearing types scheduled to be heard during the time period set forth above are canceled and rescheduled. Parties will be notified as soon as possible regarding any future court dates.

- All non-shelter care child custody, parenting time, visitation, and contempt cases where Children Services is not a party.
- All Child support cases (except arraignments)
- All Juvenile Traffic Offender cases
- All mediations
- All truancy cases
- All diversion cases
- All **non-felony** delinquent/unruly child cases where the juvenile is not in detention
- Family Treatment Drug Court hearings

The following hearing types will continue to be heard as scheduled.

- All shelter care proceedings
- All detention hearings
- All delinquent/unruly child cases where the juvenile is in detention
- All adult criminal cases or contempt cases where the adult is incarcerated
- All arraignment hearings
- All Children Services cases
- All protection order cases

- All hearings related to releases from the Butler County Rehabilitation Center

Only parties to cases, counsel, law enforcement, staff of the prosecutor's office, representatives of the press, persons seeking to file protection order cases, persons with business with the clerk's office (see below) and witnesses will be permitted into the court facility. Children will not be permitted to remain in the court facility except for purposes of providing testimony in a scheduled hearing or for the purpose of obtaining a protection order.

If you have questions about your case and how this may affect it, please contact the court at 513-887-3318.

During the time period set forth above, the office of the Juvenile Clerk will remain open during ordinary business hours **for limited purposes**. During the time period set forth above, in anticipation of decreased staffing, the Juvenile Court will accept only the following documents for filing and payments at the clerk's office.

- Documents filed by Children Services
- Documents filed by law enforcement
- Petitions for protection orders
- Notices of appeal
- Objections relating to magistrate's decisions
- Motions to set aside magistrate decisions
- Notice of appearance of counsel
- Documents related to hearings that remain scheduled during the time period set forth above
- Payments for fines, costs, restitution, and bond

The clerk's office will continue to accept faxed filings of all pleadings submitted per the Ohio Rules of Juvenile Procedure and the Local Rules of this court provided that the faxed pleading is not required to be accompanied by a filing fee. The court's fax # is 513-887-3698.

The clerk's office will also accept pleadings sent to the court by mail to 280 North Fair Avenue, Hamilton, Ohio 45011. All such pleadings must be presented in conformance with The Ohio

Rules of Juvenile Procedure and the Local Rules and must be mailed to the court, complete with any required filing fee.

Persons seeking to obtain emergency orders or emergency intervention relating to the safety or welfare of any child during the time period set forth above should contact Children Services or Law Enforcement.

If you are a criminal defendant or a juvenile charged in a felony delinquent child case who is scheduled to appear in court for your case, you are still required to appear in person, unless the court has excused your appearance.

If you are scheduled to appear before the Court in the near future for any other purpose, contact your attorney for further instruction. If necessary, the Court will make reasonable accommodations to reschedule appearances.

If you are scheduled to visit the courthouse in the near future for meeting with a probation officer or other court staff member, contact the court by phone at 513-887-3318 to determine if you are required to appear in person. Reasonable accommodations to reschedule or to communicate via teleconference will be considered.

If you have flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), please inform the Court Security at the Juvenile Court entrance. You may be denied access to the courthouse or probation department and be asked to contact your healthcare provider for details on how to proceed with proper medical care.