

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF  
COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA

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CLERK'S OFFICE  
JUVENILE COURT  
COBB CO., GA.

**ORDER**

To minimize risk to public health and safety, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following will occur in Cobb County Juvenile Court, beginning on December 28, 2020, and ending on December 31, 2021, or until further order of the court:

**1. GENERAL CONCERNS**

- a. All Juvenile Court hearings will be virtually accessible for those entitled access to the hearing.
- b. The court will remain open for the public, but they are encouraged to participate in court hearings virtually.
- c. If you are appearing in person for an essential court hearing as defined below, avoid bringing children or family members, especially the elderly, to court.
- d. The Juvenile Court Clerk's Office shall remain open during regular business hours.
- e. All persons entering Cobb County Juvenile Court shall comply with the current CDC recommendations, Executive Orders, Orders from the Supreme Court of Georgia, and Orders from the Chief Judge of the Cobb County Superior Court, including temperature checks, mask requirements, and limitations on room capacity.
- f. Persons wishing to participate or observe a scheduled hearing virtually may email [ccjcvirtual@cobbcountry.org](mailto:ccjcvirtual@cobbcountry.org) the Friday before the court hearing. Please include your name, the subject child's name, and the date and time of the hearing in your email.
- g. If any party requests that a matter be heard on an emergency basis, a request must be sent to the Judicial Assistant for the assigned judge.
  - i. Judge A. Patterson or Judge K. West – Contact Star Simmons at [Gayle.Simmons@cobbcountry.org](mailto:Gayle.Simmons@cobbcountry.org) (770) 528 – 2224
  - ii. Judge J. Hamby or Judge W. Grannis – Contact Donelle Keaton at [Donelle.Keaton@cobbcountry.org](mailto:Donelle.Keaton@cobbcountry.org) (770) 528 – 2428

**2. ESSENTIAL CASES**

- a. Parties, attorneys and necessary witnesses may appear **in-person or virtually** for hearings that are essential.
  - i. **ESSENTIAL DEPENDENCY CASES** are hereby defined as PRELIMINARY PROTECTIVE HEARINGS, ADJUDICATIONS, TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND SPECIALLY SET HEARINGS.
  - ii. **ESSENTIAL DELINQUENCY CASES** are hereby defined as ALL CASES IN WHICH THE CHILD IS DETAINED AND SPECIALLY SET HEARINGS.

**3. NON-ESSENTIAL CASES**

- a. Parties, attorneys and necessary witnesses may appear **virtually only** for non-essential hearings.
  - i. **NON-ESSENTIAL DEPENDENCY CASES** are hereby defined as PERMANENCY HEARINGS, DISPOSITIONS and any REVIEW HEARINGS.
  - ii. **NON-ESSENTIAL DELINQUENCY CASES** are hereby defined as ALL CASES IN WHICH THE CHILD IS NOT DETAINED IN CUSTODY.
  - iii. Traffic cases will be handled virtually unless specially set by the judge.
- b. Attorneys already present in court for essential hearings may remain in court for all hearings that day.

**4. NOTICE TO THE SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT:** Adult inmates held at the Cobb County Adult Detention Center and juveniles held at youth detention centers will continue to participate in court hearings virtually unless otherwise ordered.

**5. PRELIMINARY PROTECTIVE HEARINGS and DELINQUENCY DETENTION HEARINGS** will be heard by the designated on-call judge pursuant to the schedule below on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons at 1:00 p.m., except on holidays.

**6. ACCOUNTABILITY COURTS, PROGRAMS AND ON-SITE SERVICES**

- a. Each judge will be able to conduct specialty courts virtually subject to the limitations above.
- b. All group programs that are scheduled to be conducted on-site at the Juvenile Court are to be handled virtually or as designated by the Judge.
- c. If there are any questions regarding individual services, parties are to contact the Accountability Court Coordinator or Probation Supervisor.

**7. SCHEDULE**

- a. The judges alternate dependency and delinquency cases in the following manner:

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Judge Hamby	Dependency	Delinquency	Dependency	Delinquency	Special Set/Individual Hearings
Judge Patterson	Delinquency	Dependency	Delinquency	Dependency	Special Set/Individual Hearings
Judge Grannis	Dependency	Delinquency	Dependency	Delinquency	Special Set/Individual Hearings
Judge West	Delinquency	Dependency	Delinquency	Dependency	Special Set/Individual Hearings

- b. Additional duties and specialty courts assigned to the judges are as follows:
- i. Hamby= Family Treatment Court
  - ii. Patterson= Juvenile Drug Court
  - iii. Grannis= Rising Court
  - iv. West= Traffic Court, CHINS
- c. The judges will rotate court weeks in the following manner:
- i. Judge 1- Five cases at 9 a.m. and five cases at 2 p.m.
  - ii. Judge 2- Five cases at 9 a.m. and five cases at 2 p.m.
    1. Because dependency cases tend to have more people and attorneys present, this judge will hear dependency cases on opposite days from Judge 1.
  - iii. Judge 3- On Call Judge
    1. This judge is on call 24-hours a day from Monday at 9:00 a.m. until the following Monday at 9:00 a.m.
    2. This judge will hear Detention and Preliminary Protective Hearings only each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1:00 p.m. except on holidays. Additionally, they are available for verbal removal decisions on a 24-hour basis.
    3. If necessary, this judge will hear adjudications with short time limitations and emergencies for all judges.
    4. This judge will have limited access to waiting areas.
    5. This judge may set individual hearings only, may have only one case in the courtroom at a time and must ensure that there is no overlap of these cases in the courthouse at any time. These hearings will not have a start time at 9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. to limit traffic in the building at those times.
  - iv. Judge 4- Limited Hearings
    1. This judge will have limited access to waiting areas.
    2. This judge may set individual hearings only, may have only one case in the courtroom at a time and must ensure that there is no overlap of these cases in the courthouse at any time. These hearings will not have a start time of 9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. to limit traffic in the building at those specific times.
- d. The following schedule will be implemented from December 28, 2020 until December 31, 2021, or until further notice:

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>Judge 1- In Court</b>	<b>Judge 2- In Court</b>	<b>Judge 3- On Call</b>	<b>Judge 4- Limited Hearings</b>
12/28/20	Patterson	Grannis	West	Hamby
1/4/21	West	Hamby	Patterson	Grannis
1/11/21	Patterson	Grannis	West	Hamby
1/18/21	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson

1/25/21	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby	West
2/1/21	West	Hamby	Patterson	Grannis
2/8/21	Patterson	Grannis	West	Hamby
2/15/21	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
2/22/21	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby	West
3/1/21	West	Hamby	Patterson	Grannis
3/8/21	Patterson	Grannis	West	Hamby
3/15/21	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
3/22/21	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby	West
3/29/21	West	Hamby	Patterson	Grannis
4/5/21	Patterson	Grannis	West	Hamby
4/12/21	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
4/19/21	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby	West
4/26/21	West	Hamby	Patterson	Grannis
5/3/21	Patterson	Grannis	West	Hamby
5/10/21	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
5/17/21	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby	West
5/24/21	West	Hamby	Patterson	Grannis
5/31/21	Patterson	Grannis	West	Hamby
6/7/21	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
6/14/21	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby	West
6/21/21	West	Hamby	Patterson	Grannis
6/28/21	Patterson	Grannis	West	Hamby
7/5/21	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
7/12/21	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby	West
7/19/21	West	Hamby	Patterson	Grannis
7/26/21	Patterson	Grannis	West	Hamby
8/2/21	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
8/9/21	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby	West
8/16/21	West	Hamby	Patterson	Grannis
8/23/21	Patterson	Grannis	West	Hamby
8/30/21	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
9/6/21	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby	West
9/13/21	West	Hamby	Patterson	Grannis
9/20/21	Patterson	Grannis	West	Hamby
9/27/21	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
10/4/21	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby	West
10/11/21	West	Hamby	Patterson	Grannis
10/18/21	Patterson	Grannis	West	Hamby
10/25/21	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
11/1/21	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby	West
11/8/21	West	Hamby	Patterson	Grannis
11/15/21	Patterson	Grannis	West	Hamby
11/22/21	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
11/29/21	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby	West

12/6/21	West	Hamby	Patterson	Grannis
12/13/21	Patterson	Grannis	West	Hamby
12/20/21	Hamby	West	Grannis	Patterson
12/27/21	Grannis	Patterson	Hamby	West

**8. Waiting Rooms**

- a. Cobb County Juvenile Court currently has two waiting rooms that have been transformed to comply with social distancing measures.
- b. DFCS employees, children in DFCS care, and foster parents will be admitted to the five separate office/areas in the DFCS suite within the courthouse.
- c. Everyone that currently has an office in the building will report back to their offices when not on an active case in court. The courtroom clerk will call them to return to court when their case is called.
- d. While virtual attendance is preferred, CASA volunteers attending essential hearings will be appropriately distanced and will wait for cases on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor as directed by CASA officers.

SO ORDERED, THIS THE 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF December, 2020.



Amber Patterson, Presiding Judge  
Cobb County Juvenile Court