

UPDATED STANDING ORDER:
ZOOM EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS IN DEPENDENCY CASES

Under the Statewide Order Declaring Judicial Emergency issued by Chief Justice Harold D. Melton which has been extended to remain in effect until June 30, 2022, the Standing Order issued by the Douglas County judiciary, and CDC recommendations and guidelines relating to COVID-19, the Juvenile Court will conduct certain formal/evidentiary hearings via a virtual platform. The guidelines below will govern said hearings until further notice:

1. Agreement to Virtual Hearing: All parties must agree to the hearing being held virtually. Parties have ten (10) days prior to the scheduled trial to agree on an all or partially virtual hearing. If there is no agreement, the parties **MUST** appear in person unless the Courthouse has been administratively shut down.
2. Exhibits: All exhibits and exhibit lists shall be physically delivered to the Clerk's Office pre-marked **no later** than 72 hours prior to an evidentiary hearing.
 - a. Each document must be pre-marked with an alphabetical identifier, e.g. and numbered sequentially "RM 1," "RF 2" or "PET 3," etc.
3. Witnesses: **No later** than 72 hours prior to an evidentiary hearing, each party, independently or through counsel, shall submit a complete list of witnesses. The witness list must include a brief statement of the witness's anticipated testimony.
4. GAL/CASA Reports: All GAL and CASA reports shall be submitted to all parties via email **no later** than 72 hours prior to the hearing. Should any dispute arise as to the content of the reports, the author of the report shall be subject to cross-examination limited solely to the information and recommendations in the report.
5. Sequestration of Witnesses: Parties are directed to indicate on the witness list whether they intend to invoke the rule of sequestration, and verbally make the request at beginning of the hearing to allow the Court to instruct all witnesses accordingly. The parties, or the Court, may choose to question the witnesses as to how they secluded themselves from the proceedings until called for testimony.
6. Discovery: Any outstanding discovery responses and/or responsive documents shall be served upon the requesting party **at least** 5 days prior to the hearing.
7. Stipulations: Parties must announce stipulations as to facts, admission of evidence, the authenticity of documents, and witnesses qualified as experts at the call of the case.
8. Recording: All hearings will be taken down by the court reporter and/or recorded digitally per usual practice. Virtual hearings will not be recorded by the platform being

used. There shall be no outside recording of any hearing via audio, live feed, screenshot, or any other means.

Failure to abide by these instructions may result in the exclusion of evidence or witness, or the imposition of other appropriate sanctions.

So Ordered, this 13th day of January, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Harrison", is written over a horizontal line.

Judge, Douglas County Juvenile Court