



Whitfield County Juvenile Court, Georgia

Promoting the Protection and Safety of the Child, Family and Community

Honorable
G. Jason
Souther
Judge

July 15, 2020

Re: COVID-19 Court Operations

Josh Weeks,
Court
Administrator

To Whom It May Concern:

Brandi Gilbert,
Clerk of Court

As the local situation concerning COVID-19 has and continues to evolve, the Whitfield County Juvenile Court is modifying its court operations consistent with furthering the safety and health of the public and staff.

Allison Lance,
Chief
Intake/Probation
Officer

Whitfield County, Georgia has experienced a 30% increase in positive Covid-19 cases between July 6, 2020 and July 13, 2020.

According to the Whitfield County Department of Health, Whitfield County is “currently experiencing a period of substantial community spread of Covid-19.”

Therefore, from July 20, 2020 until August 10, 2020, the Whitfield County Juvenile Court will hear only the following matters:

Dependency: The following hearings whereby the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) is a party: Preliminary Protective Hearings, Dependency Adjudicatory Hearings, Dependency Disposition Hearings, Termination of Parental Rights Hearings.

Delinquency: Detention Hearings, Arraignments for children in detention, Adjudicatory Hearings for children in detention, Disposition Hearings for children in detention.

Children in Need of Services (CHINS): Continued Custody Hearings.

These matters will be held in person and subject to the Court’s previous Order requiring the use of facemasks for all persons within the Whitfield County Juvenile Court office and courtroom. All other matters will be rescheduled. Juvenile Court staff are working as quickly as possible to reschedule all affected hearings and will send out new service in a timely manner.

The COVID-19 health crisis is a fluid situation. The Court will reevaluate this protocol as is necessary. Should you have any questions, please contact the Court Administrator or the Clerk of Court.

Should you need to reach a specific Probation Officer/Intake Officer please select them from the automated telephone system.

205 North Selvidge Street, Suite H, Dalton, Georgia 30720
Telephone 706-278-6558 ♦ Fax 706-281-4620



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Thank you for your understanding and patience regarding this matter.
Please stay safe and healthy.

Whitfield County Juvenile Court.
