



MELISSA DEGEROLAMI, ASSOCIATE JUDGE
CHILD PROTECTION COURT OF SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS
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CHILD PROTECTION COURT OF SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS PLAN OF ACTION

DURING MARCH 16, 2020 UNTIL APRIL 1, 2020

Hearings, Mediations, and Court-ordered Family Group Conferences to be rescheduled after April 1, 2020:

NOTICE shall be given by Court through an Order Resetting Hearing as to which case shall be reset to all attorneys via email.

NOTICE to Respondent Parents shall be given by respective attorneys and CPS Caseworker by providing them with their respective Order Resetting Hearing.

NOTICE to all parties of rescheduled mediations and Family Group Conferences is to be provided by the Department.

- 1) Any and all Permanency Hearings will be moved to a date later than April 1, 2020.
- 2) Non-Emergency Removal Hearings will be moved to a date later than April 1, 2020. However, in the event a Non-Emergency Removal becomes an urgent issue then CPS MUST ENSURE that an EMERGENCY REMOVAL is filed immediately.
- 3) Trials on cases with dismissal dates after April 1, 2020 and Trials already commenced shall be moved to another date after April 1, 2020.
- 4) Mediations and Family Group Conferences previously ordered by this Court and scheduled prior to April 1, 2020 are to be rescheduled for a date following April 1, 2020. They may proceed telephonically if all parties are in agreement and telephonic participation can be arranged.

Hearings that will be heard telephonically via conference call:

NOTICE shall be given by Court through an Order for Telephonic Hearing (a phone number and code to call in will be included in this Order as to which case shall be heard in this manner to all attorneys via email.

NOTICE to Respondent Parents of the Order for Telephonic Hearing shall also be given by respective attorneys and their respective CPS Caseworkers advising them of the hearing.

- 1) Adversary Hearing on emergency removals which do not yet have service and would require an Order Extending shall be heard telephonically and new date will be given.
- 2) Adversary Hearings on emergency removals in which all attorneys and parties have conferred prior to court and agreed to an Agreed Order Extending Emergency Orders shall be heard telephonically and new date will be given.
- 3) Adversary Hearings on Emergency Removals in which all attorneys and parties have conferred prior to court and agreed to Agreed Temporary Orders shall be heard telephonically.
- 4) Permanency Hearings After Final Orders are to be heard telephonically.

Hearings that are to be heard in Person:

- 5) Adversary Hearings on Emergency Removals which cannot be extended and are contested will be heard in person. The Court expects that anyone diagnosed with COVID-19, who has flu like symptoms, a fever, or who are coughing or sneezing, to contact the court before appearing in-person. Attorneys and supervisors should warn their clients, witnesses, or others having symptoms to alert the court in advance before appearing. To the extent possible, we will make accommodations including telephonic participation as necessary.

Signed March 16, 2020.


MELISSA DEGEROLAMI
ASSOCIATE JUDGE