

To Attorneys Practicing in Court 5:

As most of you already know, I am not allowing attorneys to go into the detention center at this time in order to avoid transmission of the COVID 19 virus into the facility. However we have made arrangements to handle detention hearings as well as pleas and contested matters. We are conducting detention hearings Monday Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 AM. I will be creating two Zoom meetings. The first will be set at 9:30 AM. This meeting will be for the attorney handling the detentions to visit with their clients. The prosecutor will be forwarding the probable cause statements to the attorneys prior to the hearing. This link will be forwarded to the attorneys prior to the conference. You will be able to visit with your clients alone. The second link will be the hearing link. That will be forwarded to the defense attorneys, prosecutors and probation who will make sure the parents have it. When time, the court will open the meeting and conduct the hearings.

As far as pleas or other contested matters go, the defense attorneys will be provided a similar private link to visit with their clients remotely. We are in the process of setting up the Court Call platform but until then contact will be over the Zoom platform or telephone. It will not be recorded. Copies of the plea paperwork or other documents will be forwarded to the juvenile as well as the defense attorney. It will be the defense attorneys job to go over the paperwork thoroughly with their clients. If a plea agreement is reached then the Court will go over all the paperwork again with the juvenile and enter it in the record. It is our goal to have as little paper changing hands as possible. The defense attorney and the Court can initial the paperwork electronically with permission if needed, however the record should control.

If you have an issue with this procedure and want to do something different please contact the Court to discuss.

I would once again like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding in these trying times. So far I have been very pleased with how well everyone has gotten up to speed with the new procedures. As I said before, please don't hesitate to give me suggestions or ideas on how to make things go smoother.

Thank You,
Judge Tim McCoy

Timothy J. McCoy

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