



MARICOPA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT: JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

Modified Juvenile Department Operation during COVID-19 Pandemic

At the court, we are continuing to monitor and alter court procedures to ensure performance of our constitutional and statutory obligations while protecting the health and safety of those we serve. In an effort to answer questions, we are providing the following information:

1 Dependency matters:

- a. **All hearings will be held telephonically** unless the Court orders otherwise. We recognize that this is a change from the traditional in-person format. Please contact the assigned Division regarding the specific practices that your Judicial Officer is utilizing to facilitate his or her hearings.
- b. **For attorneys:** please contact your client prior to any hearing. The conference call format is not conducive to discussions between attorneys and their clients.
- c. **Requests for in-person hearings** must be filed in writing. Any party to a dependency proceeding as defined by Rule 37(A), Rules of Procedure for the Juvenile Court may file a motion seeking an in-person hearing in lieu of a telephonic hearing. Such motion must be filed no less than 24 hours before the hearing and must be emailed to the Division.
- d. **It is critical that parties and lawyers** are on time for hearings. Please call in at the time you are directed to call. If one party is late, it will impact multiple parties throughout the day.
- e. **Adoptions will be presumptively telephonic.** Parties should contact the assigned Division with any requests to hold adoptions in-person.
- f. **All Family Treatment Court hearings and private severance evidentiary hearings** will be postponed for at least 60 days and will be reset by the assigned Judicial Officer.

2 Delinquency matters:

- a. **Most hearings will be held telephonically.** All hearings except the following will be telephonic: adjudication hearings, disposition hearings, transfer hearings, changes of plea and direct file Initial Appearance hearings. Note: the parties can stipulate to convert these hearings from in-person to telephonic.

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