HONORABLE LISA M. ANDREWS
ASSOCIATE JUDGE, CHILD PROTECTION COURT
10TH ADMINISTRATIVE JUDICIAL REGION

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March 26, 2020

TEMPORARY PROCEDURES IN THE CHILD PROTECTION COURT FOR RUSK, PANOLA, TITUS, MORRIS, MARION, SABINE, SAN AUGUSTINE, AND SHELBY COUNTIES DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

This Court is implementing the following temporary procedures for essential and non-essential Child Protection Court hearings pursuant to the following:

1) First, Second, and Third Emergency Orders regarding the COVID 19 State of Disaster issued by the Supreme Court of Texas in Misc. Docket No. 20-9042, 20-9043, and 20-9044; and

2) the directives and guidance issued by the Office of Court Administration.

The Emergency Order issued by the Texas Supreme Court instructs individual Courts to take several steps to limit the spread of the virus and to "Take any other reasonable action to avoid exposing court proceedings to the threat of COVID-19," including, "Conduct proceedings away from the Court's usual location with reasonable notice and access to the participants and the public."

All hearings scheduled from March 25, 2020 to May 1, 2020 will be heard by remote means in order to avoid exposure to the threat of COVID-19 while at the same time protecting the constitutional rights of all litigants and continuing to pursue safe, stable and prompt permanency for children. Remote hearings shall occur via ZOOM. Instructions on how to attend remote hearings will be distributed via email.

The Court will consider sworn statements, sworn testimony and documentary evidence as permitted by the Supreme Court of Texas Emergency Orders.

These procedures are subject to change as required or warranted by any additional orders, updates, written guidelines and directives issued in connection with COVID-19 matters and until normal Court operations can resume.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Andrews
Associate Judge