

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, UNION COUNTY, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION**

In the Matter of
**OPTION TO PARTICIPATE IN
COURT HEARINGS VIA
VIDEOCONFERENCING UNDER
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES
CREATED BY COVID-19.**

Case No. 2020JJ005 (Juvenile Div.)

JUDGE EUFINGER

EFFECTIVE April 20, 2020, as the result of the State of Emergency that exists due to the public health crisis created by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Juvenile Court of Union County hereby issues the following orders:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that any portion of any existing local rule in conflict with the following orders is hereby **SUSPENDED** until this order is vacated or modified by the Court. In particular, this Order regards and modifies/suspends language within any existing local rule that requires parties or attorneys to personally appear for certain hearings. **FURTHER**, this Order is applicable to all Juvenile Court hearings whether the Court has scheduled the proceeding to be heard via remote videoconference, teleconference, in-person hearing or a combination of those methods.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that regarding in-person court hearings convening in the Union County Juvenile Court, parties and their attorneys may continue to participate in person and parties and attorneys may also request to participate through video conference or teleconference. The Court has obtained a paid subscription with Zoom Video Communications with which to initiate video-conferencing sessions; however, participating parties and attorneys must have compatible hardware and software and may be able to access a free version of this application through this link: <https://zoom.us> or by downloading a cellular phone application, often entitled "Zoom Cloud Meetings."

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that parties and their attorneys shall discuss and carefully research the option of participating through videoconferencing prior to participating in a hearing through that platform. Parties and attorneys should consider issues including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Parties' and attorneys' ability to view other parties, witnesses and participants to judge their demeanor throughout an evidentiary hearing;
2. Parties' and attorneys' ability to present evidence from a remote location;
3. Parties' and their attorney's ability to communicate with one another throughout the hearing and presentation of evidence;

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4. Unexpected technical issues that may interfere with or preclude participation; and
5. Attorneys' overarching professional responsibilities and duties to competently represent their clients and their clients' legal interests.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, should any party or attorney of record choose to participate in a hearing through videoconferencing or should a party choose to present evidence or witness testimony through videoconferencing, that party shall file a notice to the Court in that matter, advising the court of the same and copying all other parties no less than four business days prior to the scheduled hearing date. Any other party who objects to such participation shall file a pleading setting forth the objections, as well as a memorandum in support, no less than two business days prior to the scheduled hearing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that failure to comply with the procedures set forth above, may result in a party's or attorney's participation, evidence or testimony being excluded from hearing, to that party's detriment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any questions about the operation of this emergency order should be directed to the Chief Deputy Clerk of this Court, by emailing lmoots@co.union.oh.us.

All shall be advised that the Court seeks to obtain additional software compatible to the Court's recording system to allow other methods of participation through videoconferencing; additional information will be provided upon the Court's attainment of that software.

The Court will vacate or amend this order at the conclusion of the emergency.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



**CHARLOTTE COLEMAN EUFINGER,
JUDGE**

CASA Program of Delaware County & Union County
 Central Ohio Youth Center
 Marysville Division of Police
 Plain City Police Department
 Richwood Police Department
 Ohio State Highway Patrol, Marysville Post
 Tri-County Regional Jail
 Union County Bar Association
 Union Co. Auditor
 Union Co. Commissioners
 Union Co. Department of Job and Family Services/PSCA
 Union C. Department of Job and Family Services/CSEA
 Union Co. Prosecuting Attorney
 Union Co. Sheriff
 Union Co. Clerk of Courts
 Union Co. Court of Common Pleas, General Division

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