



MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUVENILE AND FAMILY DIVISION

Pursuant to the Administrative Order ADM20-8001 issued by Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea on March 20, 2020 and amended March 23, 2020, the court may conduct hearings in family and juvenile cases through limited in-person appearances.

In-person hearings are authorized through April 22, 2020 only in the following family and juvenile hearing types: emergency change-of-custody requests, emergency protective care (EPC) hearings for children in placement, admit/deny hearings for children in placement, and hearings involving juveniles that are in-custody. In-custody juvenile hearings specifically include; detention review hearings, omnibus hearings that do not require live testimony, plea hearings, certification hearings, extended jurisdiction juvenile hearings (EJJ), disposition hearings and probation revocation hearings. Parties and their attorneys may also appear by phone for those hearings with the approval of the assigned judge.

All other hearings through April 22, 2020, with approval of the assigned judge, may be conducted by phone, or by review of the parties' submissions without oral argument, to the extent feasible, practicable, and in the interests of justice. Alternative electronic hearing methods, such as ITV and virtual court room technology, are being evaluated by court administration and may be added at a later time. Any request for relief that presents an immediate liberty concern, or when public or personal safety concern are paramount may be heard in person with judicial approval. All hearing types are encouraged to be conducted remotely when possible.

The court will prioritize resources and hearings for the use of remote technology.

Remote Options

Future remote options, such as video and ITV, may be dependent on internet access and the court's network. Court administration will slowly increase the number of hearings available for these remote solutions to gauge the load placed upon the network.

Telephone conferencing is the most commonly available solution to hold remote hearings. The district has requested additional phone conference lines to support this option. Individual judges may also request litigants to coordinate phone conferences for remote hearings.

In-Person Hearings

The Juvenile & Family Division will give priority to the following hearing types:

Family and Domestic Abuse/Harassment

- Emergency Change-of-Custody, including an Assisted Reproductive Technology hearing
- In-Custody Hearings Related to a Family Bench Warrant
- Orders for Protection, based upon a case-by-case determination that an in-person hearing is necessary due to a personal or public safety concern that is paramount or it involves an emergency change in custody
- Emergency Pre-Adoptive Custody Motion

Juvenile

- In-Custody Detention Hearings and Detention Reviews
- In-Custody Omnibus Hearings (that do not require live testimony)
- In-Custody Plea Hearings
- In-Custody Certification Hearings
- In-Custody Extended Jurisdiction Juvenile Hearings
- In-Custody Disposition Hearings
- In-Custody Probation Violation/Revocation Hearings

Child Protection

- Emergency Protective Care and Admit/Deny Hearing, combined if possible
- Warrant for Custody of Child

High priority case types will be held in person, unless the judge determines that the hearing can be conducted remotely. The judge must determine whether a remote hearing is feasible, practicable, and in the interests of justice.

Hearing Type	In Person Hearing	ITV	Phone
Emergency Change-of-Custody	Yes	Yes	Yes
In-Custody Hearings Related to a Family Bench Warrant	Yes	Yes	Yes
In-Custody Detention Hearings and Detention Reviews	Yes	Yes	Yes
In-Custody Omnibus Hearings	Yes	Yes	Yes
In-Custody Plea Hearings	Yes	Yes	Yes
In-Custody Certification Hearings	Yes	Yes	Yes

In-Custody EJJ Hearings	Yes	Yes	Yes
In-Custody Disposition Hearings	Yes	Yes	Yes
In-Custody Probation Violation/Revocation	Yes	Yes	Yes
Emergency Protective Care	Yes	Yes	Yes
Admit/Deny Hearing for Children in Placement	Yes	Yes	Yes
Emergency Pre-Adoptive Custody Motion	Yes	Yes	Yes
Warrant for Custody of Child	Yes	Yes	Yes

Though all case types are eligible for remote hearings, the district is not required to make hearings available in all case types. Case types that have significant self-represented litigant participation may not contain enough party information to successfully connect through remote options. Necessary equipment, software, browsers, and internet services may not be available to all litigants.

Moreover, hearings that require sworn testimony or the admission of exhibits, may make a remote hearing unworkable. In those instances, the court may consider alternatives to allow those hearings to go forward, such as the use of affidavits, stipulations or consideration on written submissions only.

For each of the case-types or hearings listed above, a judicial officer will be in a courtroom presiding over the hearing. The record may be captured electronically through CourtSmart or with a stenographic reporter. In the discretion of the judicial officer, some or all of the persons involved in the matter may participate remotely either telephonically using an MJB Conference Bridge or through ITV or a combination of both.

The district has limited ITV resources, and it is limited to circumstances where the party who wants to appear by remotely via ITV is also at a location that has ITV technology. Typically, the only locations that have ITV technology are other government agencies or institutions, like a courthouse located in another judicial district or a correctional facility.

Pursuant to the Administrative Order Pertaining to Courtroom Access During COVID-19 Emergency issued by Chief Judge John H. Guthmann on March 21, 2020, if your hearing is held in person, attendance is limited to:

- Parties and parent-participants in the case who are participating in the hearing,
- attorneys who represent those parties,
- any necessary court staff,
- other individuals the presiding judge determines are necessary to conduct the hearing

Representatives of the media are permitted to attend hearings held in courtrooms. Requests by media representatives to attend any hearing must be coordinated through the Judicial Branch Court Information Office at least 24 hours before the scheduled time of the hearing.

Anyone exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19 is precluded from entering a courthouse facility.

Persons attending a hearing in the courtroom shall observe social distancing practices and maintain a 6-foot separation from other attendees whenever possible, including when seated in the gallery.

The Ramsey County Sheriff is authorized to bar or remove persons from the courtroom to ensure compliance with these requirements.

All Other Hearings

The Administrative Order ADM20-8001 issued by Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea on March 20, 2020, allows for all other proceedings and case types to be held by any other remote technology that permits the parties and attorneys to appear without being in the courtroom or by review of the written submissions without oral argument to the extent feasible, practicable, and in the interests of justice. Each judicial officer will make that determination on a case-by-case basis.

At this time, the Juvenile & Family Division will not consider remote hearing options for hearings or trials where there is live testimony, including, but not limited to, dissolution trials, paternity custody trials, temporary custody/parenting time trials or motions, domestic abuse/harassment evidentiary hearings or trials, termination of parental rights trials, or emergency protective care hearings. If a hearing involves an emergency change of custody or the personal or public safety concerns are paramount, then an in-person hearing may be ordered by the judicial officer assigned to the matter.

The Juvenile & Family Division will consider remote hearing options for the following case types.

Family and Domestic Abuse/Harassment

- Expedited Child Support Process
- Temporary Custody/Parenting Time Hearings
- Non-emergency Custody Hearing
- Post-Decree Custody, Support and Maintenance
- Temporary Support and Maintenance
- Review Hearings, including 6 Month Review Hearings
- Motions for parenting time assistance and motions to modify parenting time
- Domestic Abuse Order for Protection Hearings
- Harassment Restraining Order Hearings
- Out of custody contempt motions

Juvenile

- Judicial Bypass/Parental Notification
- Non-Custody Delinquency Hearings, including motions to extend probationary term

Child Protection

- Private CHIPS Petitions
- Child Protection Permanency Hearings
- Review Hearings
- Adoptions
- Truancy/Runaway Hearings

Hearing Type	In Person	Written Submissions	ITV	Phone
Expedited Child Support Process	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Temporary Custody/Parenting Time Hearings	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Non-Emergency Custody Hearing	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Post-Decree Custody, Support and Maintenance	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Temporary Support and Maintenance	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Review Hearings, including 6 Month Review Hearings	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Initial Case Management Conferences, Review Hearings, Default Hearings, Stipulated Dissolution Hearings	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Domestic Abuse Order for Protection	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Harassment Restraining Order Hearings	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Judicial Bypass/Parental Notification	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Juvenile Traffic	No	No	No	No
Parenting time assistance and Modification of parenting time	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Non-custody contempt motions	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Non-Custody Delinquency Hearings	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Private CHIPS Petitions	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Child Protection Permanency Hearings, including Admit-Deny	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intermediate Disposition Review Hearings, Permanency Progress Review Hearings	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Adoptions	No	Yes	No	Yes
Truancy/Runaway Hearings	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

For each of the case-types or hearings listed above, a judicial officer, court staff, and parties shall not conduct a hearing at this time in-person or at the courthouse. Therefore, only remote hearings may be conducted as follows:

- All persons involved in the matter participate remotely using an MJB Conference Bridge telephone line, which allows individual parties to participate with a passcode; or
- All persons involved in the matter participate remotely using a secure Conference Bridge telephone line created by an individual party to the case, which allows individuals to participate with a passcode.
- ITV resources are limited and priority is given to cases that are high priority. Therefore, even if a party would like to utilize ITV for a medium or low priority hearing, the request may not be granted. At the discretion of the judicial officer assigned to the case, the hearing may proceed as scheduled or the hearing may be rescheduled when ITV is available. As stated above, ITV is only possible in certain circumstances where the party seeking to appear via ITV has access to ITV technology, typically that is through another government agency or correctional institution.

MJB Conference Bridge telephone lines are limited, and MJB Conference Bridge telephone lines may not always be available. Priority is given to hearings and cases designated as a high-priority pursuant to the Administrative Order ADM20-8001 issued by Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea on March 20, 2020 and amended March 23, 2020. By further Order of the Court, there may be modifications to this list. There may also be further technology options, such as video conferencing, available in the future.

Further Information

Court Administration Contact Information

For information regarding a particular hearing, please contact court administration at;

- Family – 651-266-2842
- Domestic Abuse / Harassment – 651-266-5130
- Juvenile– 651-266-5115