

# **Juvenile Court**

## **COVID – 19 Changes in Court, Probation, and Detention Operations**

Below is a summary of the temporary changes made to Juvenile Court operations as a result of an Emergency Order from the Washington State Supreme Court, a Yakima County Superior Court Emergency Order, and other expectations from the Yakima Health District and from the Washington State Governor’s Office. Please be advised that these conditions will likely be modified as the Court continues to respond to the COVID – 19 situation.

### **Court Operations**

THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY TO ALL JUVENILE OFFENDER TRIALS, TRUANCY, AT-RISK-YOUTH (ARY), CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES (CHINS) AND DIVERSION TERMINATION HEARINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

- All current juvenile offender trials set on or before April 24, 2020 are now scheduled to take place on Monday April 27, 2020 at 8:45 am.
- All truancy cases are dismissed.
- No new At-Risk-Youth (ARY) may be filed and no new contempt motions may be scheduled until May 5, 2020.
- No new CHINS petitions may be filed, and no new contempt motions may be scheduled until May 5, 2020.
- All diversion termination hearings currently set through April 30, 2020 are stricken.

### **Dependency Court Operations**

THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY TO ALL JUVENILE DEPENDENCY HEARINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

- All dependency hearings, with the exception of 72-hour shelter care hearings, shall be heard telephonically unless otherwise ordered by the court.
- All 72-hour shelter care hearings shall be set on the dependency docket in the normal course and shall be heard telephonically unless a parent specifically requests an in-person hearing.
- All parties and attorneys needing to telephonically appear shall do so by calling (509) 574 – 2171 and enter PIN 2171# by the time the hearing is set to begin. Each

party shall mute their phone until they are asked by the court for argument or to answer a question from the court.

- All agreed proposed orders will be processed at the beginning of each docket, and all parties and/or attorneys are not required to appear telephonically or in person for any case with an agreed proposed order.
- All fact-finding and termination bench trials set at Yakima County Juvenile Court are continued and shall be reset on or after April 27, 2020.
- All Family Treatment Court hearings scheduled through April 24, 2020 are stricken.

### **Probation/Diversion Operations**

THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY TO ALL PROBATION SERVICES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

- All ART (Aggression Replacement Training) classes are suspended and will be rescheduled.
- All future RCS (Restorative Community Service) events have been cancelled.
- All contact with Juvenile Probation Counselor or Diversion Unit personnel shall be performed telephonically and/or through email if applicable. It is the responsibility of the juvenile to keep their probation counselor or diversion unit updated on any changes to phone number(s) or other contact information.
- Juveniles that have ordered community service hours remaining shall make arrangements with their probation counselor or diversion unit for possible alternatives.
- To reach the Juvenile Probation or Diversion Department with any questions please call (509) 574 – 2050.

### **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)/Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Operations**

THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY TO ALL CASA/GAL SERVICES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

- All in-person meetings, interviews and contacts are suspended and will be conducted telephonically if applicable.
- For all general CASA / GAL inquiries please call (509) 574 – 2050

## **Juvenile Detention Operations**

THE FOLLOWING JUVENILE DETENTION SERVICES SHALL APPLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

- All visitation is hereby suspended. In an effort to promote healthy communication with parents/legal guardians, all juvenile clients will receive two 10-minute phone calls per week at detention discretion. These calls will be free of charge and placing money into the paid phone call account system will not be necessary. Juveniles will still have ability to place additional phone calls using the paid phone account system if applicable.
- Juvenile clients shall be provided information and updates regarding the COVID-19 situation while in detention and have access to protective measures at their request. Upon release, parents/guardians will be provided literature to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to learn what their child and family can do.
- All juveniles will have their temperature taken and screened at the time of intake and have access to medical attention throughout their stay. Juveniles will be quarantined for the first 24 hours upon arrival, followed by a 72-hour orientation period where they will be medically reviewed.
- Juveniles booked into detention on new charges will have their first court hearing at 1:30 pm the next judicial day. Parents/Guardians will be contacted by telephone from the court when their child is being placed in the courtroom, so that they can participate and “be present” for the hearing telephonically. All parties will be made aware of future hearing dates and times along with appearance expectations.
- Juveniles will not be prevented from communicating with their attorneys, counselors, resource providers etc.
- All detention related questions should be made by calling (509) 574 – 2110 and asking to speak to the supervisor on duty.