

## **Update: March 30, 2020**

Fulton County Juvenile Court has joined the Atlanta Judicial Circuit in an Executive Order declaring a Statewide Judicial Emergency in Fulton County, issued on March 13, 2020 by the Chief Judge of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit.

The Fulton County Juvenile Court will only conduct essential hearings, including Preliminary Protective Hearings (PPH) and Detention Hearings for detained youth. These hearings will be calendared on Mondays and Thursdays and will be conducted via video conference in accordance with Rule 12.2 of the Uniform Rules of Juvenile Court. Detention hearings will be scheduled at 10 am and PPH hearings (for youth placed in DFCS custody) will be scheduled at 2pm on Mondays and Thursdays, until the Judicial Emergency Order ends.

Judges will hear the cases on a rotating schedule and may physically be in the court for all hearings. All other parties are expected to participate in hearings via video-conference or teleconference. If a party does not have adequate equipment, telephone or other device to access the virtual hearings, the party will be provided access to the virtual hearings upon contacting the Fulton County Juvenile Court at **(404) 612-4402 or (404) 612-4419**. Where the judge is presiding remotely over a video-conference, notice shall be given to the public and the parties that a proceeding will occur wholly by remote video-conference.

No non-essential hearings will take place prior to the statewide judicial emergency order being lifted unless they can be conducted by video or teleconferencing. Instead, all non-essential hearings shall be rescheduled to a date beyond April 13, 2020 and shall be continued pursuant to the extension of the statewide judicial emergency order. Parties in all non-essential matters shall receive notice via U.S. mail with their new court date. Attorneys in all non-essential matters may contact the chambers of the judge assigned to their case with questions.

The Fulton County Sheriff's Office shall direct DFCS Case Managers, attorneys, parties, and any individual who is seeking public access to essential hearings to use the telephone located at the Receptionist's Desk in the lobby of Fulton County Juvenile Court. In order to gain access to the hearing, those individuals should contact the Intake Unit at **(404) 612-4419**.

**Any person who is seeking information about a specific hearing date or time, should contact the Clerk of Court's Office at (404) 613-4623.**

The Fulton County Sheriff's Office shall direct private citizens who appear at the court in person for other legal business to the telephone located at the Receptionist's Desk in the lobby of the Fulton County Juvenile Court to contact **(404) 612-4402**, prior to entering any other department of the court.

## **The Intake Unit**

The Intake Office is open to the public for limited filings during the hours of 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, until further notice. The Intake Unit operates on a 24 hour basis. **Please contact the Intake Unit at (404) 612-4419 for instructions on submitting documents or pleadings electronically prior to visiting the courthouse in person.**

## **Court Administration**

Court Administration employees are working remotely and will be available to support Juvenile Court via email and phone as needed. Please use Court Administration's main line: (404) 613-4559.

## **Probation Services**

- All probation officers will be available and managing their caseloads via telephone.
- Probation Supervisors/Staff shall only submit cases alleging severe probation violations, potentially placing children or the public at risk, to the Court with requests for arrest warrants.

For more information, please contact Samuel Washington, Assistant Director of Probation Services, at [samuel.washington@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:samuel.washington@fultoncountyga.gov) or (404) 613-4804.

## **CHINS Unit**

The CHINS Unit will continue to provide case management services for ungovernable, truancy, educational neglect and runaway cases. New referrals will be accepted from Intake via email to [miriam.kirby@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:miriam.kirby@fultoncountyga.gov) and will be assigned to CHINS coordinators. CHINS cases that require more intensive consultation will be referred to the Behavioral Health Unit after assessment by CHINS coordinators.

## **Court and Family Services**

### **Behavioral Health**

The Behavioral Health Unit is available to assist families in connecting with providers, addressing psychiatric emergencies (if a child is a danger to self/others) and supporting youth/families on its Mental Health Caseload. Listed below are important numbers for families in crisis:

<b>GA Crisis/Access Helpline:</b>	<b>800-715-4225</b>
<b>Suicide Hotline:</b>	<b>800-273-8255</b>
<b>Child Protective Services:</b>	<b>855-422-4453</b>
<b>Hughes Spalding:</b>	<b>404-785-5437</b>
<b>Domestic Violence Hotline:</b>	<b>800-799-7233</b>

For more information regarding the Fulton County Juvenile Behavioral Health Unit, please contact: Shelly Spizuoco, Director of Behavioral Health Services at: [Shelly.spizuoco@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Shelly.spizuoco@fultoncountyga.gov) or (404)964-6587.

**Accountability Courts:** All regularly scheduled in-person treatment court sessions, including HOPE, CHOICES and PARTNERS are suspended until after the Judicial Emergency Order is lifted, however, virtual hearings may be conducted. Please contact Tiffany Barclay for more information. New referrals will not be processed until the Court resumes normal business operations.

For more information regarding the Fulton County Juvenile Accountability Court Program, please contact Tiffany Barclay, Email: [Tiffany.Barclay@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Barclay@fultoncountyga.gov); Phone: (404)964-7293.

**Citizen Review Panel:** All panels are suspended and will be rescheduled to a date beyond the end of the Judicial Emergency Court Order.

**Education Advocates:** Education advocates will work remotely and be available for educational video conferences as well as Accountability Court video/tele conferences.

Kimberly Washington, Supervisor: [kimberly.washington@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:kimberly.washington@fultoncountyga.gov)

Paula Rafferty: Mobile (404) 664-7823, [Paula.Rafferty@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Paula.Rafferty@fultoncountyga.gov)

Rita Madden: Mobile: (678) 427-5719, [Rita.Madden@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Rita.Madden@fultoncountyga.gov)

**Guardians ad Litem:** (GALs) will attend Detention Hearings as needed in the absence of a parent. All GALs will also be on call for all Dependency PPH hearings. Contact Kimberly Washington, Supervisor, for more information, [kimberly.washington@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:kimberly.washington@fultoncountyga.gov).

**Mediation:** All mediation sessions are suspended and will be rescheduled once the Judicial Emergency Order ends.

### **Partner Programs**

**CASA:** Atlanta CASA has suspended in-court support but is continuing to provide regular (modified) services to foster care youth during this judicial emergency:

Please contact Atlanta CASA with questions or concerns at 404-613-4720 or via email: [director@atlantacasa.org](mailto:director@atlantacasa.org).

**TIP:** TIP is updating the website with up to the minute resource links for education, legal and basic need resources and planning for virtual life skills groups with TIP youth via Zoom.

For additional information, visit TIP's website [www.truancyproject.org](http://www.truancyproject.org) or contact Sarah Babcock at [sbabcock@truancyproject.org](mailto:sbabcock@truancyproject.org).

**youthSpark:** youthSpark continues to provide services to Juvenile Court youth via virtual support groups, connecting youth to resources, educational support and crisis intervention. For general questions, please call (404) 612-4628. To make a referrals, send an email to [referrals@youth-spark.org](mailto:referrals@youth-spark.org).