

# VIRGINIA:

## IN THE JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT FOR THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

### ORDER

The Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court (JDR) is operating under Emergency Declarations from the Supreme Court of Virginia due to the COVID-19 Emergency pandemic.

The Supreme Court, in its June 1, 2020 Fifth Extension, in paragraph 3) states: “the courts should continue to conduct as much business as possible by means other than in-person proceedings. In all civil and criminal matters, courts are encouraged to continue and even increase the use of video conference, teleconferencing, email or other means that do not involve in-person contact. These methods are preferred over in-person court proceedings.”

In addition, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia has charged the courts with the responsibility to take reasonable steps to minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19. This Court’s paramount concerns are assuring due process for all court users, as well as protecting the safety of all court users.

Alexandria JDR court has procedures in place for two-way video hearings via the Polycom audio/video conferencing system for all juveniles and adults incarcerated in facilities throughout Virginia. This process has been working very well.

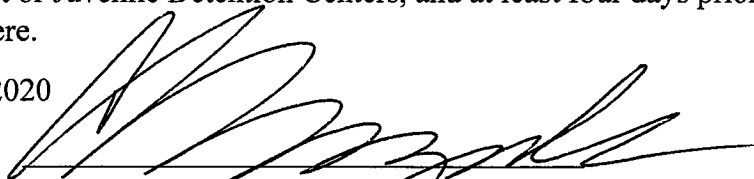
To fully effectuate the charge of the Supreme Court to protect the safety of the public and all court users, this Court, **with the exception stated herein**, has determined that in all cases where a juvenile or adult is incarcerated, the individual incarcerated shall participate in the hearing via JDR Court’s Polycom two-way audio/video conferencing system. This measure is reasonable and necessary to reduce the risks of exposure to COVID-19 and keep all individuals safe as mandated by the Supreme Court of Virginia.

**As an express exception**, the Court will consider any request for an in-person hearing on a case by case basis if the attorney/party requesting the incarcerated person’s presence can show good cause why the incarcerated individual’s physical presence is necessary and can be accomplished safely. If granted, the incarcerated person will be transported to the courtroom for the hearing.

Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED** that:

While the Emergency Orders remain in place, in all cases where a juvenile or adult is incarcerated, the individual incarcerated shall participate in the hearing via JDR Court’s Polycom two-way audio/video conferencing system. This is subject to the express exception that any party may request the incarcerated individual appear in-person if it can be shown that the incarcerated individual’s physical presence is necessary and can be accomplished safely. Such request shall be made either by praecipe or motion filed with the JDR Court clerk’s office. Such requests should be made at least 48 hours prior to the hearing for individuals incarcerated in the Alexandria Adult or Juvenile Detention Centers, and at least four days prior to the hearing for individuals incarcerated elsewhere.

**SO ORDERED:** Dated: June 16, 2020



Constance H. Frogale, Chief Judge