FILED
MAR 13 2020
CLERK SUPREME COURT

In the Iowa Supreme Court

In the Matter of Preparation for Coronavirus/COVID-19 Impact on Juvenile Court Services	)))	**Order**

The Iowa Judicial Branch is carefully monitoring the situation regarding the spread of the novel coronavirus/COVID-19. In addition, the Governor's Office and the Iowa Department of Public Health have urged Iowans to prepare for its impact "in the same way they prepare for severe weather or other events that could disrupt their normal routine."

Preparation is key to minimizing coronavirus/COVID-19 impact on the services the judicial branch provides at-risk juveniles and their families. The following procedures should be followed to protect juveniles, families, attorneys, court personnel and others who regularly conduct business in juvenile courts and with juvenile court services (JCS).

1) **Inquire**. To the extent possible, JCS shall affirmatively inquire of juveniles and families whether they have an elevated risk of transmitting the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.
2) **No in-person attendance.** No person who has an elevated risk of transmitting the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 shall personally attend any meetings or other proceedings with JCS without prior authorization from the Court.
3) **Remote intakes and meetings.** JCS may conduct intakes and meetings using video or phone conferencing when it believes it would be practical and efficient to do so and will promptly consider any request by parties to change an in-person intake or meeting to a remote intake or meeting.

4) **Continued efforts.** Chief Juvenile Court Officers will continue to work with Chief Judges and State Court Administration on plans to develop mitigating measures to address the effects of the coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak on juveniles and their families. All such efforts must be consistent with providing services to at-risk youth and their families to the fullest possible extent while protecting public safety by mitigating the impact of coronavirus/COVID-19.

5) **Update.** As circumstances change, this order may be updated.

Dated this 13th day of March, 2020.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By _____
Susan Christensen, Chief Justice