

**FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
ADMINISTRATIVE GOVERNING BOARD  
OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**No. 27 of 2020**

**In Re: Essential Dependent Juvenile Proceedings**

**ORDER**

**AND NOW**, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day April, 2020, in accordance with the General Statewide Judicial Emergency Orders issued by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on March 18th, 2020 (Nos. 531 and 532 Judicial Administration Docket) extended by Supplemental Order issued April 1, 2020, directing the closure of court facilities in all judicial districts as to *non-essential functions*, and authorizing in-person court proceedings in some emergency matters involving *essential functions*, and this Court's Declaration of Emergency issued on March 16, 2020 and extended on April 1, 2020, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DECREED THAT effective immediately:**

- (a) **The Philadelphia Family Court building at 1501 Arch Street remains generally closed to the public.**
- (b) General operations are suspended except as set forth in previously issued President Judge Administrative Order, Docket No. 15 of 2020, *and* as provided below:
  - (1) Shelter Care Hearings and Dependency Adjudicatory Hearings where the child is in placement including kinship care, congregate care, or foster care will be conducted pursuant to the following:
    - (i) Shelter Care Hearings and Dependency Adjudicatory Hearings shall be conducted at Philadelphia Family Court, 1501 Arch Street, in combination with Advanced Communication Technology.
    - (ii) Judges shall hear Dependency Adjudicatory Hearings and Dispositional Hearings where the child is in placement pursuant to Pa.R.J.C.P Rule 1404 (a). These hearings will be heard daily.
      - o Upon identification by Court Administration, the cases will be administratively listed. Notification will be provided.
    - (iii) The Court shall continue to conduct shelter care proceedings, pursuant to 42 Pa.C.S. §6332. Shelter care hearings will be heard every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
  - (2) With the agreement of all parties, reunification orders will be administratively granted without a hearing.
  - (3) The Court shall continue to issue orders for protective custody, pursuant to Pa. R.J.C.P. Rule 1210.
  - (4) The Court shall continue to be available to issue orders for Authorization for Medical Treatment of a Minor, pursuant to 18 Pa.C.S. §3201.

**BY THE COURT:**

*/s/ Idee C. Fox*

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Idee C. Fox, President Judge  
Chair, Administrative Governing Board  
First Judicial District of Pennsylvania  
President Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County