



MICHAEL J. LINN  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

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STATE OF FLORIDA  
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
INDIAN RIVER, MARTIN, OKEECHOBEE & ST. LUCIE COUNTIES

COVID-19 MEMO #5

Date: June 11, 2020

Re: Linn Division Updated COVID-19 Procedure

Pursuant to Chief Justice Canady's Administrative Orders, and Chief Judge Mirman's Administrative Orders, the Linn Division will be conducting hearings using the procedures outlined below. I have emphasized amendments by italics and/or bold

**1. Probate and Guardianship**

All Civil, Unified Family Court, Probate, and Guardianship hearings ***MUST be by Zoom*** until further notice. Parties who have UMC and specially set hearings need to contact my office at [IRCJudge5@circuit19.org](mailto:IRCJudge5@circuit19.org) and provide a list of e-mails for everyone wanting to participate in the Zoom hearing. The list of e-mails must be provided *by 5:00PM the Friday prior to the hearing date and failure to do so will result in the hearing being cancelled.* Any evidence used at the hearing must be filed in the Court file five days in advance.

The Court will continue to process the paperwork for Probate and Guardianship cases that do not require a hearing.

Any injunction or emergency temporary guardianship hearings must be scheduled through my office at [IRCJudge5@circuit19.org](mailto:IRCJudge5@circuit19.org). Emergency hearings will be set at 1 PM. Likely, these hearings will be by Zoom, but I will be determining that on a case by case basis.

**2. Dependency**

June 1, 2020 Dependency Court will be conducted on Zoom. After June 1<sup>st</sup>, Personal appearance will be left to the discretion of the Court on a case by case basis, and in accordance with the latest administrative orders. Dependency

Adjudicatory trials *will be via Zoom until further notice*. Termination of Parental Rights Trials will be in person.

*All Shelter hearings will continue as scheduled at 8:45 via Zoom.*

### **3. Risk Protection Orders**

All risk protection orders shall remain as scheduled. Personal appearance will be at the discretion of the Court. Parties wishing to appear by Zoom should contact my office, prior to the hearing. Risk protection hearings will be scheduled at 1PM.

### **4. Delinquency**

*Detention Hearings will be via Zoom until further notice using the rotation of Juvenile Judges.*

### **5. Specialty Courts**

*Drug Court will be via Zoom until further notice.*

Truancy court is rescheduled to September 3, 2020 at 4 PM.

### **Communication**

If you have any questions about any of your business in the Linn Division, please contact our office at [IRCJudge5@circuit19.org](mailto:IRCJudge5@circuit19.org). Do not rely on hearsay, social media, or conjecture about how this division is conducting business. This division will run in compliance with Administrative Orders from Chief Justice Canady and Chief Judge Mirman. We will file additional memos updating how we do business as needed.