



MICHAEL J. LINN  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
2000 16<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SUITE 384  
VERO BEACH, FL 32960  
PHONE: (772) 770-5050  
FAX: (772) 770-5335

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

COVID-19 MEMO #8

Date: August 30, 2021

Re: Linn Division Updated COVID-19 Procedure

Pursuant to Chief Justice Canady's Administrative Orders and Chief Judge Schwab's Administrative Orders, the Linn Division will be conducting hearings using the procedures outlined below.

**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 4:00PM 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 1:00PM. Likely, these hearings will be by ZOOM, but will be determined on a case by case basis.

**2. Dependency**

All TPR trials will be conducted in person.

All other dependency hearings/ trials will be conducted on ZOOM. Personal appearances will be left to the discretion of the Court on a case by case basis and in accordance with the latest administrative orders.

All Shelter hearings will continue as scheduled at 8:45AM via ZOOM. Anyone can personally come to the courtroom to utilize the ZOOM technology if they wish.

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

All final risk protection hearings shall be in person. Any other risk protection order hearing shall be done by ZOOM.

### **4. Delinquency**

All Delinquency Trials shall be done in person. Disposition hearings shall be done in person; however, if ZOOM is requested for a disposition, I will review that on a case-by-case basis. All other delinquency hearings shall be done via ZOOM.

### **5. Specialty Courts**

Drug Court and Truancy Court will be done via ZOOM.

### **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 Schwab. We will file additional memos updating how we do business as needed.