

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY

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In the Matter of Protective Measures ) PRESIDING JUDGE FILE NO. 2101-00000  
During the COVID-19 Pandemic )  
) ORDER RE CONTINUING REMOTE  
) PROCEEDINGS IN JUVENILE CASES

On March 8, 2020, Oregon Governor Kate Brown issued an emergency declaration relating to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. On June 25, 2021, Governor Brown issued Executive Order 21-15, which extended the COVID-19 state of emergency to December 31, 2021. On December 21, Governor Brown issued Executive Order 21-36, which extended the state of emergency to June 30, 2022.

During the state of emergency, Oregon Chief Justice Martha Walters has issued many Chief Justice Orders (CJOs) relating to court operations. As Presiding Judge of this judicial district, I have issued many Presiding Judge Orders (PJOs) relating to court operations during the COVID-19 state of emergency.

On October 29, 2021, I issued a PJO regarding the mode of proceeding during the post-transition period (hereafter referred to as the 10/29/21 PJO). Under the 10/29/21 PJO, certain proceedings in juvenile cases resumed (or continued as) in-person appearances. All other matters—except for 4 specified proceedings that were to be conducted remotely indefinitely—were to resume as in-person appearances starting on January 3, 2022.

Nationwide, public health officials are warning of a surge in COVID-19 cases due to the highly contagious omicron variant. Governor Brown recently ordered state executive branch employees to continue working remotely, and extended the COVID-19 state of emergency, due to the threat posed by omicron variant. Under the circumstances, I have concluded that it would be safer to continue remote appearances for the proceedings in juvenile cases that were scheduled to begin as in person appearances beginning January 3, 2022.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. The proceedings in juvenile cases that have been conducted in person as of November 1, 2021, under the 10/29/21 PJO will continue to be conducted as in-person

appearances. Social distancing of at least 6 feet and protective face coverings will be required for those proceedings.

2. The proceedings in juvenile cases that were scheduled to begin as in person appearances starting on January 3, 2022, under the 10/29/21 PJO will continue to be conducted remotely through February 25, 2022. Those proceedings will resume with in-person appearances beginning February 28, 2022, unless extended or otherwise modified by Presiding Judge order.

This order is effective immediately and supersedes the 1029/21 PJO to the extent it is inconsistent with this PJO. This order shall remain in effect until extended, modified or terminated by further order of this court.

DATED: December 22, 2021

  
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Stephen K. Bushong  
Presiding Judge, Multnomah County Circuit Court