

HONORABLE LAURALEE G. WESTINE

7530 Little Road
Court Room 3B
New Port Richey, FL 33756
Debi McCarty, Judicial Assistant
727-815-7058
dmccarty@jud6.org

Judicial Practice Preferences-Dependency/UFC/Delinquency

Communication.

Preferred communication is via email with Debi McCarty, Judge Westine's Judicial Assistant, at dmccarty@jud6.org. You may also reach her at 727-815-7058. Always include a case number in the subject of all communication.

Scheduling.

When asking to set a non-emergency motion for hearing, unless it is set by order of the Judge, dates must be agreed upon by the parties. Please remove the Judicial Assistant from emails coordinating hearing dates. Once a date is agreed upon, please email the Judicial Assistant. Dates provided by the Judicial Assistant are not "held" so it is imperative to confirm hearing dates as soon as agreed upon by the parties.

When asking to set an emergency hearing, please email the motion to the Judicial Assistant for the Court to make an emergency determination and set the matter for hearing.

In Person v. Zoom Hearings.

All trials shall be in person, unless a Zoom appearance is approved in advance.

All evidentiary hearings shall be in person, unless a Zoom appearance is approved in advance.

Tuesday and Thursday calendar hearings shall be via Zoom, except, Advisories, where parents only must appear in person; Arraignments, where parents only must appear in person; and Pre-trials, where parents and parent attorneys must appear in person.

UFC hearings shall be determined on a case-by-case basis, other than the child shall be present in person, unless a Zoom appearance or waiver of presence is requested in writing and approved in advance by the Court.

Delinquency hearings shall be in person unless a written waiver is approved in advance by the Court.

If you are appearing via Zoom, please make sure your connection is stable. Please use your best efforts to instruct your clients of this requirement as well.

Orders.

Agreed upon orders may be submitted via JAWS.

Contested orders may be emailed to the Judicial Assistant in Word with a summary of the objection of other counsel.

Please email urgent or time sensitive orders to the Judicial Assistant or, if uploaded to JAWS, please notify the Judicial Assistant and the order will receive prompt attention.

E-filing.

The Court does not receive notice of motions or filings. If you wish the Court to review a filing prior to a hearing, please email it to the Judicial Assistant.