



Murray County Juvenile Court

Whitfield County Juvenile Court



May 4, 2023

CIRCUIT JUDGE

G. Jason Souther

STAFF

Joshua Weeks
Court Administrator

Alisha Scott
Clerk of Court, Murray County

Brandi Gilbert
Clerk of Court, Whitfield County

Allison Lance
Chief Probation Officer, Whitfield
County

Re: Teleconference appearances for court and transportation of inmates

1. Regarding the use of “Zoom”, “Webex”, “Microsoft Teams”, or similar audio/video teleconferencing software, the Murray County Juvenile Court and Whitfield County Juvenile Court will permit very limited usage for court proceedings.

The necessity of such software to be used in lieu of physical court appearances has greatly diminished as the Covid-19 state of emergencies on the national and state level have ended. The expectation of in-person court appearances, which existed prior to the Covid-19 states of emergency, must resume.

Therefore, effective June 1, 2023, the use of the aforementioned audio/video teleconferencing software will be permitted in matters in the following instances only:

- a. Court-appointed interpreters;
- b. Representatives of tribal governments; and
- c. Judge appearances.

All other parties, witnesses, or members of the public, must appear in person for Juvenile Court proceedings if they wish to participate.

2. Inmates of the Murray County Jail or Whitfield County Jail, who are parties to a Juvenile Court case, will continue to be transported to court proceedings.

State inmates, whom are parties in juvenile court matters, will be transported by the Court for Termination of Parental Rights hearings only. They will not be transported by the Court for any other hearings, whether they be dependency, delinquency, CHINS or emancipation matters. Counsel will be appointed to such person and will be present for all hearings and represent the inmate’s interests.

G. Jason Souther
Judge
Murray County Juvenile Court
Whitfield County Juvenile Court