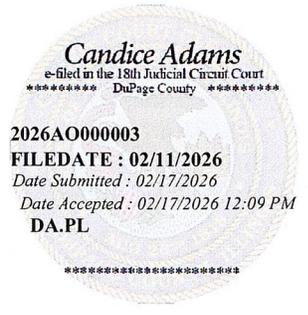


STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF DU PAGE)



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DU PAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF MODIFICATIONS AND) Administrative Order 26-3
ADDITIONS TO THE CIRCUIT COURT RULES)

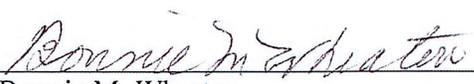
WHEREAS, the Circuit Judges of the 18th Judicial Circuit adopted local Circuit Court Rules on November 16, 2004; and

WHEREAS, from time to time the Circuit Judges find it necessary to ratify and codify certain revisions, amendments and additions to said local Circuit Court Rules; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2026, **Circuit Court Rule 17.02 (l) and 17.08 were amended and attached as Exhibit A.**

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that these changes, shown as adopted in the exhibit attached hereto, was adopted into the local Circuit Court Rules to be effective immediately.

ENTER:



Bonnie M. Wheaton
Chief Judge

Dated: February 11, 2026
Wheaton, Illinois

ARTICLE 17: JUVENILE

17.01 GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) Purpose and Scope. These Local Rules govern proceedings in the Juvenile Division of the 18th Judicial Circuit, DuPage County, including both child protection (abused, neglected or dependent minors, minors requiring authoritative intervention, and addicted minors) and juvenile justice (delinquency) cases under the Illinois Code of Criminal Procedure. The purpose of these rules is to ensure fair, efficient, and timely adjudication consistent with the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 (705 ILCS 405/1-1 *et seq.*), the Guardianship Act, the Adoption Act, Illinois Supreme Court Rules, and other relevant authority.

(b) Authority and Application. Adopted pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 21, these rules supplement, but do not replace, the Juvenile Court Act, Illinois Supreme Court Rules, and other relevant authorities.

(c) Applicability of Civil Procedure. The provisions of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure apply unless inconsistent with these Rules or the Juvenile Court Act.

(d) Scheduling of Court Dates. Except for shelter care, detention, or return on summons, court dates and times shall be scheduled through the judge or their designated scheduler.

(e) Consolidation of Related Cases. Where guardianship, adoption, or order of protection cases involving the same child are pending, they shall be transferred to be heard by the juvenile court judge who already handles that child's case.

(f) Guardian *ad Litem* (GALs). The 18th Circuit shall maintain a list of approved GALs. Attorneys must:

- (1) Complete a Court-approved GAL training program.
- (2) Hold an active Illinois law license in good standing.
- (3) Maintain an office in DuPage County or surrounding counties, provided the GAL has a DuPage County attorney number.
- (4) Serve at the discretion of the Presiding Judge.

(g) Representation. Representation continues through all stages of the proceedings until the case is closed or terminated, or 30 days post-sentencing. Withdrawal by motion is governed by IL Supreme Court Rule 13.

(h) Motions. Motions and notices shall comply with the Code of Civil Procedure (JA cases), Code of Criminal Procedure (JD cases), Supreme Court Rules, and Local Circuit Court Rules.

Emergency motions must follow Circuit Court Rule 15.10. With the exception of emergency motions, no motion shall be heard or presented without being previously scheduled with the court, court secretary, or on a previously scheduled date.

(i) Interstate Compact on Juveniles. All requests for return of a minor pursuant to the Interstate Compact on Juveniles (45 ILCS 10/1 *et seq.*) requiring court approval may be heard by a Juvenile Court Judge.

(j) Attendance at Hearings. Attendance is governed by 705 ILCS 405/1-5.

(1) DCFS, CASA, Department of Juvenile Justice, and DuPage County Court Services representatives with direct interest may attend unless excluded.

(2) Other interested parties may attend by leave of court.

(k) Case Assignment.

(1) JD cases involving a single minor shall be randomly assigned and, unless otherwise ordered, shall remain so assigned throughout the pendency of the case. A single minor with a pending case shall have any new case assigned to the judge currently or previously assigned to the lowest case number file, including any term of supervision, conditional discharge or probation.

(2) If a JA case is reopened within twelve (12) months of closure, it shall be reassigned to the judge who originally heard the matter, when practicable.

(3) Cases involving more than one minor co-respondent shall be heard by the same judge and, on motion of the court, all minor co-respondents in a single case shall be transferred to the judge to whom the lowest numbered case is assigned. Any recusal or motion for substitution of judge filed by one minor co-respondent shall act to transfer all minor co-respondents.

(4) Failure to transfer a case in accordance with this rule shall not be grounds for dismissal of criminal or quasi-criminal charges, unless justice so requires.

(5) Reassignments of pending cases and any cases companion thereto shall be made at the discretion of the Presiding Judge of the division who, when ordering said reassignments, shall be guided by the following criteria:

(i) Desirability of preserving manageable caseloads;

(ii) Desirability of equalizing workloads among judges; and

(iii) Desirability of assigning cases to only those judges who normally hear that category of cases which is the subject of the reassignment.

17.02 CHILD PROTECTION PROCEEDINGS (ABUSE, NEGLECT, DEPENDENCY)

(a) Motions. After the petition is filed, all requests for action by the court shall be made by motion. Motions and Notice of Motions will be made pursuant to the Code of Civil Procedure, Supreme Court Rules and Rules of the Circuit Court.

(b) Supplemental Petitions.

(1) Within the fourteen (14) day period following the filing of the original petition, any party may file a supplemental petition without leave of court. Notice shall be given to all parties and the Department of Children and Family Services.

(2) After expiration of the fourteen (14) day period, Notice of Motion for Leave to file a supplemental petition, shall be given to all parties and Department of Children and Family Services.

(c) Reasonable Efforts Affidavit. Any motion for a temporary custody hearing filed by the Department of Children and Family Services in the case of an alleged abused, neglected or dependent minor, must be accompanied by an affidavit signed by a representative of the Department of Children and Family Services setting forth the efforts taken by the Department of Children and Family Services to prevent or eliminate the necessity of removal of the minor from his or her home. This affidavit shall be attached to the motion.

(d) Discovery.

(1) Limited Discovery Upon First Court Appearance. Upon the first court appearance by counsel for respondent, the state shall provide counsel with any documents used to provide information supporting the allegations in the petition including but not limited to the DCFS Request for Filing Abuse/Neglect Petition and any similar documents.

(2) Limited Discovery Subsequent to the First Court Appearance. Discovery limited to written requests for information, documents, records, or evidence available for inspection, testing, copying or photographing may be undertaken between the parties without the leave of court. Any party receiving such a written request shall, within ten days, excluding weekends and court holidays, comply with the request or provide a written explanation of the reasons for non-compliance to the parties and the court.

(3) Judicial Management of Discovery. All provisions for discovery set out in the Supreme Court Rules are enforceable in the Juvenile Division for good cause shown at the discretion of the court.

(e) Pretrial Conference.

(1) The court may convene a pre-hearing conference on its own motion or upon the request of any party.

(2) Depending upon the circumstance of the case, the purposes of pre-hearing conference shall be to:

- (i) Review efforts to locate and serve all parties;
- (ii) Determine whether the child shall be present and testify at adjudication and, if so, under what conditions;
- (iii) Conclude any unresolved discovery matters;
- (iv) Identify issues of law and fact for trial;
- (v) Develop a list of possible witnesses with a brief summary of their testimony and stipulations; and
- (vi) Confirm the trial date and estimate the length of the trial.

(3) Parties shall have a continuing obligation to update information provided during the pre-hearing conference.

(f) Significant Event Reports. Pursuant to 705 ILCS 405/1-3(14.2), DCFS must tender Significant Event Reports to all parties within three (3) days of the occurrence.

(g) Shelter Care Hearings.

(1) "Shelter Care" and "temporary custody" are used interchangeably.

(2) DCFS shall notify all parties of the shelter care hearing in accordance with 705 ILCS 405/2-9.

(3) A DCFS investigator or supervisor must appear at the shelter care hearing.

(4) At the hearing, DCFS shall tender the following:

- (i) Any prior indicated reports;
- (ii) A reasonable efforts report;
- (iii) A visitation plan (to be provided within 10 days);
- (iv) A Family Finding and Relative Engagement Report;

- (v) A case/service plan (within 45 days of placement);
 - (vi) A child over the age of eight (8) shall be present unless excused by the court for good cause shown;
 - (vii) DCFS shall file an affidavit describing diligent efforts to notify parents of shelter care rehearing.
- (h) Adjudicatory and Dispositional Hearings. The following shall be provided at least seven (7) days prior to the dispositional hearing:
- (1) Dispositional report;
 - (2) Service plan;
 - (3) Integrated assessment (if ordered).
- (i) No respondent minor may be required to appear at trial or evidentiary hearings without proper notice to the GAL and DCFS legal. The court may set conditions for appearance pursuant to 705 405/2-17(4)(d).
- (j) Answer to Petition. Answers admitting substantive allegations shall be made personally by the parties in open court. Denials may be made by counsel on behalf of parties, unless the court orders otherwise.
- (k) Initial Court Family Conference. At the temporary custody hearing—or as soon as practical—the court shall schedule an initial Court Family Conference. The initial conference shall be held no fewer than fifty-six (56) days after the temporary custody hearing in accordance with Illinois Supreme Court Rule 942.
- (l) Limited Issue Child Protection Mediation Program. The 18th Judicial Circuit Court establishes the Limited Issue Child Protection Mediation Program (the “Program”) in compliance with Illinois Supreme Court Rules 99(c)(2) and 905(a). Mediation under these rules is a confidential, informal, and non-adversarial process in which a qualified and neutral mediator and/or co-mediators, appointed by the court, assist litigants in reaching a mutually acceptable agreement. The role of the mediator(s) includes, but is not limited to, assisting the parties in identifying issues, fostering group problem-solving, exploring settlement alternatives, and reaching agreements without the need for trial. Parties (parents, guardians, and/or foster parents, attorneys, caseworkers, GAL’s, CASA’s, therapists, school staff and/or other professionals) and their representatives ordered by the court to mediate are required to participate in good faith.
- (1) Purpose of the Child Protection Mediation Program. The Program is intended to address issues in abuse, neglect, dependency, and related juvenile proceedings that

may benefit from facilitated discussion and consensus-building. The Program's goal is to improve outcomes for children and families, promote permanency, and resolve disputes in a manner consistent with the best interests of the minor child(ren).

(2) **Juvenile Actions Eligible for Court Ordered Mediation.** The court may order mediation available to all newly filed cases and all pending cases involving the allocation of parental responsibilities or parenting time with a child or children that are initiated under Article II of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987. Mediation may be ordered in the following types of juvenile cases:

(i) **Child Protection Cases.** Limited to issues involving parental responsibilities, parenting time, placement, visitation, or other matters that may delay permanency or resolution; and

(ii) **Suitability Determinations.** The court may refer a case to mediation at any stage of the proceeding. Mediation shall not be ordered if the court determines there is an impediment to mediation, including safety concerns, coercion, or inability to participate meaningfully. Parties, attorneys, GALs, CASA volunteers, and caseworkers may request referral to mediation.

(3) **Program Staff and Administration.** The 18th Judicial Circuit Court shall oversee and coordinate court resources used for the Program. The DuPage County Family Center ("Family Center") shall, however, be responsible for the administration and daily operations of the Program and shall accept mediation appointments at the discretion of the Juvenile Court judges.

(ii) **Referral and Assignment Procedures.** The mediation process shall commence as soon as the court determines that mediation is in the best interests of the child(ren) to address issues involving parental responsibilities, parenting time, placement, visitation, or other matters that may delay permanency or resolution and orders mediation.

(A) Referrals to mediation shall be made through a child protection mediation order.

(B) When a case is ordered to mediation, a return date shall be set by the referring judge.

(C) When a case is referred to mediation, the involved individuals shall work with Family Center staff to schedule a date and time for the initial mediation session. All individuals expected to participate in mediation sessions must complete intake forms and submit them prior to the initial session.

(D) Mediations shall be held (1) in person at the Family Center, which is located at 422 North County Farm Road, Wheaton, Illinois 60187, (2) by Zoom, or (3) at a location deemed appropriate by the Family Center.

(iii) Mediation shall be in person and shall be co-mediated by Family Center mediators unless otherwise determined by Family Center staff.

(iv) Participation. The court may order participation from:

(A) Parents/guardians and/or foster parents;

(B) Attorneys, GALs, CASA volunteers, caseworkers; and

(C) Therapists, school staff, and/or other professionals, if deemed beneficial.

(D) Child Participation. Mediators may interview a child or children prior to sessions. The GAL, CASA volunteer, and/or case manager may attend the interview. After consultation with any of these individuals, the mediator shall make final determinations as to the appropriateness and manner of the child(ren)'s participation in the mediation.

(E) Participation in all mediation sessions is mandatory for all persons ordered by the court to participate. The State's Attorney may elect not to appear; and upon agreement of those present, a mediation session may proceed in the absence of an ordered individual if the mediator deems appropriate.

(v) Confidentiality and Privileges.

(A) The mediator shall require the parties to execute a confidentiality agreement and complete a screening to determine if an impediment to mediation exists. Neither mediation records nor work product of the mediator shall be subpoenaed in any proceeding except by leave of court.

(B) Except as otherwise provided by law, all mediation communications occurring during the mediation process shall remain confidential in accordance with the terms of the Uniform Mediation Act (710 ILCS 35/1 *et seq.*). Mediation communications shall not be disclosed in meetings, case reviews, staffing, or similar meetings. Additionally, mediation communications shall not be recorded,

electronically or manually, in memoranda, case notes, reports, case plans, uniform progress reports, or similar documents.

(C) Privilege and Discovery. All mediation communications are privileged and not subject to discovery per the Uniform Mediation Act (710 ILCS 35/1 *et seq.*). Disclosure of mediation communications shall not be compelled in any arbitration, administrative hearing, adjudication, civil action, or non-criminal proceedings in which, pursuant to law, testimony can be compelled to be given. Evidence or information that is otherwise admissible or subject to discovery does not become inadmissible or protected from discovery solely by reason of its disclosure or use in mediation.

(D) Exceptions to Confidentiality. In accordance with the Juvenile Court Act, any mediator or mediation participant may disclose:

- (1) New allegations of abuse or neglect that are revealed during the mediation process;
- (2) Threats or statements made in mediation where failure to disclose is likely to result in imminent risk of serious harm to any person;
- (3) Mandatory reporting under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/1-5/4);
- (4) Terms of a written mediation agreement; and
- (5) Other disclosures as required by law.

(vi) Subsequent Mediation Sessions. Following the initial mediation session, subsequent sessions may be scheduled at the mediators' discretion. The mediator shall pick mutually agreed upon dates and times for mediation. These sessions may include some or all of the individuals who participated in the initial session, as well as others who did not previously participate. The mediators have the discretion to include or exclude an individual in any mediation session if it is determined that doing so would advance the mediation process and keep the focus of the discussion on the best interests of the child(ren).

(vii) Agreements. As a consensual decision-making process, no agreement can be reached unless all the involved parties agree. No agreement will be binding on parties who are not present without their written consent. No

agreement reached will interfere with the statutory prosecutorial obligations of the State's Attorney. Upon consensus, the mediator shall assist the mediation parties in memorializing their agreement in writing. Any executed Memorandum of Agreement shall be tendered to the court for approval. Only once the court approves and enters the Memorandum of Agreement as an order is it fully enforceable by the court. Mediation agreements shall be subject to the court's discretion.

(viii) Mediation Report. The mediator shall, on a court-approved form, report to the court on the progress of mediation within ten (10) days of the termination of the last mediation session, but in no event after the assigned status date. The mediation report shall include:

- (A) Whether the parties appeared;
- (B) Whether a full, partial, temporary, or no agreement was reached;
- (C) Whether mediation occurred, was postponed, or did not occur. If mediation did not occur, the mediation report shall inform the court why it did not occur, whether an informal discussion was facilitated among the parties in attendance, and whether the case has been or shall be reset for mediation; and
- (D) Whether mediation was deemed inappropriate.

(ix) A Family Center mediator, approved and certified by the Circuit and acting pursuant to these rules, shall have judicial immunity in the same manner and to the same extent as a judge, under the authority conferred by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 99(b)(1).

(4) Mediator Qualifications. Family Center Mediators shall have the knowledge and/or experience with the local child protection and juvenile court systems, the dynamics of child welfare administration, and local community resources. Additionally, the child protection mediators shall possess one or more of the following:

- (i) A Juris Doctor degree with demonstrated experience;
- (ii) A bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in psychology, social work, marriage and family therapy, conflict resolution, or other behavioral science substantially in the field of juvenile and/or family law related to family relations, domestic violence, or child development, from an accredited college or university; or

(iii) A background in mediation with experience acceptable to the court.

(iv) Family Center Mediators shall be subject to the approval of the Presiding Domestic Relations Judge or their designee prior to mediating under the Program.

(5) Conflict of Interest.

(i) If the mediator has or has had any possible conflict of interest, including but not limited to, a current or previous therapeutic, personal or economic relationship with either party, any child, stepparent, other relative, counsel or anyone else involved in the case, he or she shall decline the appointment or disclose that relationship to the attorneys and may be removed for that reason. If there is a conflict, the parties may select or the court shall appoint another mediator.

(ii) A mediator who is a mental health professional shall not provide counseling or therapy to the parties or their children during or after the mediation. An attorney-mediator may not represent either party in any matter during the mediation process or in a dispute between the parties after the mediation process.

(iii) Imputed Disqualification. No person will be eligible to serve as a mediator on a case if that person, or a member of that person's practice, agency, or business entity, or someone with whom that person shares office space has served or is serving as an evaluator in that case.

(6) Mediation Shall not be Required.

(i) Mediation shall not be required if the court determines that an impediment to mediation exists. An impediment to mediation may include, but is not limited to, domestic violence, mental illness, cognitive impairment, drug use, alcohol use, prescription medication use, physical impairment, fraud, duress, or undue influence. All cases that are ordered to mediation shall be screened for such impediments. The court shall make inquires of counsel or the parties concerning the issue of impediments to mediation.

(ii) The mediator shall also screen for issues of impediments to mediation. If the mediator determines that there is such an impediment, mediation shall be suspended and the matter referred back to the court for a determination regarding continued mediation.

(7) Termination of Session.

(i) Each session will end with the consensus of the parties, unless the mediator determines the session should be terminated prior to such consensus. Mediators may end a session early if they determine:

- (A) Mediation is no longer safe or productive;
- (B) A party cannot meaningfully participate; or
- (C) The parties reach an impasse.

(ii) The mediator shall immediately advise the court in writing if he or she suspends or terminates mediation or in the event either or both parties fail to comply with the terms of this paragraph.

(iii) The mediation may be terminated or suspended at the option of the mediator or the court.

(8) Reporting Risk of Bodily Harm and Abuse.

(i) A mediator shall promptly reveal information to the appropriate law enforcement agency to the extent it appears necessary to prevent a party from committing an act that would result in death or serious bodily harm.

(ii) Attorneys, when acting as mediators, shall reveal information required by Rule 1.6 "Confidentiality of Information" under the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct.

(iii) The mandated reporting requirement of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/1 *et seq.*), as applied to mental health professionals, shall also apply to all mediators.

(9) Reporting Mediation Statistics and Updating Mediator List.

(i) Internal Reporting. The Family Center shall report monthly to the Chief Judge regarding:

- (A) The number of referrals including but not limited to the number of sessions a family has completed and the outcomes of these mediations;
- (B) Issues mediated and who attended mediation;
- (C) Length of time from referral to resolution/return to court;
- (D) Participant experiences: and

(E) Challenges to effective administration, if any.

(ii) The Family Center shall provide an updated list of their employed mediators and the mediators' qualifications as changes to staffing occur.

(iii) Reporting to the Supreme Court. The circuit court shall then report quarterly to the Illinois Supreme Court accordingly.

17.03 JUVENILE JUSTICE PROCEEDINGS (DELINQUENCY)

(a) Detention Hearings.

(1) Detention Hearings shall be held within forty (40) hours after a minor is taken into custody pursuant to 705 ILCS 405/5-415.

(2) A minor determined to require secure detention under 705 ILCS 405/5-410(2) shall be detained at the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center, unless otherwise directed by court order.

(b) Diversion and Preliminary Conferences.

(1) Preliminary Conferences. Court Services shall schedule and conduct a preliminary conference in accordance with 705 ILCS 405/5-305. The conference shall be scheduled within twenty-eight (28) days of receipt of the referral screening sheet, except when:

- (i) The minor is detained;
- (ii) The State's Attorney demands a judicial hearing.

(2) Diversion Intake Criteria. Court Services shall consider the following when deciding whether to divert a case:

- (i) The best interests of the minor;
- (ii) The seriousness of the alleged offense;
- (iii) Community safety;
- (iv) The minor's family dynamics and support system;
- (v) Availability and suitability of community resources;
- (vi) Whether previous diversion had been attempted and the outcome of those attempts.

(3) Held in Abeyance and Probation Adjustment

(a) After the filing of a delinquency petition, the court may hold the petition in abeyance and authorize the probation officer to confer in a preliminary conference with the minor named in the petition, the minor's parent, guardian or legal custodian, the victim, the juvenile police officer, and/or the State's Attorney to determine the minor's eligibility for a probation adjustment, in accordance with 705 ILCS 405/5-305.

(b) The probation officer shall provide written reports to court personnel 3 days before the court date.

(c) If the minor successfully completes the non-judicial probation adjustment, they shall be eligible to have their petition withdrawn and case expunged.

(d) If the minor fails to comply with any term or condition of the non-judicial probation adjustment, the State's Attorney shall determine whether the matter will proceed in court.

(c) Discovery.

(1) Initial Exchange. Upon the first court appearance of defense counsel, and without the need for a written motion, the State shall disclose all discovery required under IL Supreme Court Rule 412 that is in its possession or control.

(2) Defense Disclosure. Within the time set by the court, defense counsel shall provide discovery to the State under IL Supreme Court Rule 413.

(3) Ongoing Duty. Both parties have a continuing duty to supplement discovery in a timely manner.

(d) Motions and Pretrial Practice.

(1) Pretrial Motions. All substantive motions must be filed no later than seven (7) days before trial. Responses shall be filed at least three (3) days before the scheduled hearing.

(e) Sentencing (Dispositional Hearings).

(1) Timing. A sentencing hearing shall be held within eight (8) weeks after a finding of guilt or admission but may be continued for good cause shown.

(2) Required Documents. The following document shall be due three (3) days before the hearing:

(i) Social investigation report under section 5-701 of the Juvenile Court Act;
and

(ii) Any court-ordered evaluations.

(3) Social investigation reports under section 5-701 of the Juvenile Court Act shall be delivered to the parties as provided for by section 1-5 of the same act.

(4) Reports under section 5-705 of the Juvenile Court Act shall be disclosed pursuant to the requirements of section 5-3-4 of the Unified Code of Corrections.

(f) Sanctions for Violations of the Terms and Conditions of Sentencing. Pursuant to 705 ILCS 405/5-715(6), as a condition of a disposition of probation, conditional discharge, or supervision, probation may invoke any sanction provided for per administrative order for a violation of the terms and conditions of the sentence of probation, conditional discharge, or supervision.

(g) Review and Compliance Hearings. The court may set review hearings to monitor compliance with probation or services. Probation officers must be prepared to report on compliance orally or in writing.

(h) Expungement. A Juvenile Court Judge may hear any expungement motion filed under 705 ILCS 405/5-915. Petitioner must comply with notice and eligibility requirements as outlined by statute.

(i) Expungement Hearings. If an objection to expungement is made, the court may set a date for a hearing and notify all parties entitled to notice of the petition of the hearing date at least 30 days prior to the hearing.

17.04 CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION OR PROBATION

Conditions of Supervision or Probation will be in substantially the following form, although the rules may be varied to suit each case:

(a) Not violate any criminal statute or ordinance of any jurisdiction, including state and local curfew laws.

(b) Make reports or permit the Probation Officer to visit the minor at the minor's home or elsewhere, in the manner and frequency designated by the Probation Officer under whose charge the minor is placed.

(c) Inform the Probation Officer within forty-eight (48) hours of any change in the minor's place of residence, school or employment.

(d) Not leave the State of Illinois without the prior permission of the Probation Officer.

- (e) Reside with the minor's parents, guardian, or legal custodian and obey their rules and requirements concerning the minor's conduct, hours and companions.
- (f) Attend all school classes regularly and promptly, and comply with all other rules and regulations of the school, or if the minor is not enrolled in regular high school classes and is not required by law to attend such classes, the minor must pursue another course of study, or vocational training, or be employed on a full-time basis as approved by the Probation Officer.
- (g) Undergo medical, psychiatric, psychological, alcohol or drug counseling or other treatment as directed by the Probation Officer.
- (h) Refrain from possessing a firearm or other dangerous weapon.
- (i) Comply with such other conditions as may be ordered by the Court.
- (j) If the juvenile elects to participate in the Administrative Sanctions Program, the juvenile shall comply with such other conditions as ordered under the Program.

17.05 MINOR REQUIRING AUTHORITATIVE INTERVENTION

- (a) A petition may be filed any time after the minor is taken into limited custody, but the adjudicatory hearing on such a petition will be delayed pending expiration of the applicable time-period under section 3-3 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987. 705 ILCS 405/3-3.
- (b) If the minor is in shelter care, the adjudicatory hearing must be held no later than 30 days after the order of shelter care but not before the applicable time-period under section 3-3 has elapsed. 705 ILCS 405/3-3.

17.06 REMOTE COURT APPEARANCES

- (a) Purpose and Authority. This section governs the use of remote appearances in Juvenile Court proceedings in accordance with IL Supreme Court Rule 45 and IL Supreme Court Rules 241, 943, and applicable local administrative orders. The purpose of this section is to enhance access to justice, improve court efficiency, and ensure flexibility while preserving due process.
- (b) General Provisions.
 - (1) The court may require in-person appearance at its discretion, especially in matters involving the presentation of evidence or the credibility of witnesses.
 - (2) The court shall ensure that all remote participants can hear and be heard, communicate confidentially with counsel, and access documents necessary for the hearing.

(3) The judge shall inform all parties on the record that the proceeding is being held remotely and confirm each participant's ability to hear and be heard.

(c) Delinquency Proceedings.

(1) A minor's waiver of in-person appearance is permitted only with the court's approval. The judge must ensure the waiver is knowing, intelligent, and voluntary.

(2) The court may deny a remote appearance request for evidentiary hearings, trials, or sentencing unless there is a written stipulation from all parties or a finding of good cause.

(d) Abuse and Neglect Proceedings.

(1) Remote appearances are permitted without prior approval except for:

(i) Shelter care/temporary custody hearings;

(ii) Adjudication hearings;

(iii) Disposition hearings;

(iv) Permanency review hearings;

(v) Termination of parental rights;

(vi) Any contested or evidentiary hearing.

(e) If a party is ordered to appear in person and fails to do so without justification, the court may enter appropriate orders, including findings of default or continuance.

17.07 APPEALS - CHILD PROTECTION

(a) Appointment of Counsel.

(1) Upon the filing of a Notice of Appeal in a juvenile abuse and neglect case, or any other case except delinquency, a respondent who has been found indigent may be appointed appellate counsel by the court.

(2) The Office of the Chief Judge shall maintain a list of qualified appellate attorneys approved for appointment in juvenile cases, or one will be selected from the registry maintained by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts-Courts, Children and Families Division.

(3) Counsel appointed for appeal shall continue representation until the appeal is fully resolved or counsel is granted leave to withdraw by the reviewing court.

(b) Transcript and Record on Appeal.

(1) Upon finding of indigency, the court shall authorize the preparation of the record and transcripts necessary for appeal at no cost to the minor or respondent, as governed by IL Supreme Court Rule 607.

(c) Compensation of Appointed Appellate Counsel.

(1) The compensation of court-appointed appellate attorneys shall be set by the Chief Judge of the 18th Judicial Circuit consistent with IL Supreme Court Rule 299.

17.08 RELEASE OF INFORMATION AND ACCESS TO JUVENILE PROCEEDINGS

(a) Release of Records. Requests for law enforcement or Juvenile Court records held confidential under the Juvenile Court Act may be heard by a Juvenile Court Judge.

(b) Interested Parties. Except for news media and crime victims as defined in 725 ILCS 120/3, only those persons under 705 ILCS 405/1-5(6), including representatives of agencies and associations, who in the opinion of the court have a direct interest in the case or in the work of the court shall be admitted to a juvenile hearing, provided:

(1) Any interested person or agency shall, no later than seven (7) days before the hearing, make a request for access to the juvenile proceeding using the form found in Appendix D.

(2) A party objecting to the admission of an interested person or agency shall file its objection no later than three (3) days before the hearing using the form found in Appendix D.

(3) A witness objecting to the admission of an interested person or agency shall file his or her objection no later the three (3) days before the hearing using the form found in Appendix D.

(4) The court will evaluate admission requests on a case-by-case basis outside of the presence of the minor. The court will enter a written order on all requests for admission of an interested person or agency specifying the scope of admission, if any, permitted. An order granting admission shall be effective only for the proceedings specified in the written order. The form of an order for admission of an interested person or agency shall be as prescribed in Appendix D.

(5) Private individuals who simply seek to follow and/or gather and disseminate information about a juvenile case do not have a direct interest in being admitted to juvenile hearings.

(6) The court may, for the minor's safety and protection and for good cause shown, prohibit any person or agency with a direct interest in the case or in the work of the court permitted to be present in court, from disclosing the minor's identity.

(c) Media Coverage Request. Requests for media coverage shall be made pursuant to Article 38 of these rules. In any court proceeding in a juvenile case, adoption, or in any proceeding required under Illinois law to be held in private, extended media coverage will be permitted upon request of the media coordinator, but the court may, for the minor's safety and protection and for good cause shown, prohibit any person or agency present in court from disclosing the minor's identity.

17.09 SAVING PROVISION

No action shall be dismissed for want of compliance with Article 17 unless the Court shall determine such dismissal is in the best interest of the minor and the public.