

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 20-07

Authority for MPD to Release Juveniles Who Have Been Arrested on Juvenile Custody Orders for Failure to Appear and Abscondences

WHEREAS there is a public health emergency declared in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS in recognition of that emergency, on March 15, 2020 the Chief Judge issued an Order rescheduling trials for all non-detained respondents scheduled for trial before May 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS custody orders have been issued for respondents who have failed to appear for hearings or who have absconded from shelter placements; and

WHEREAS modifying those orders, in appropriate cases, will improve the health and safety of those respondents and the citizens of the District of Columbia;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby

ORDERED, that after an arrest for failure to appear, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) shall notify the Court Social Services Division (CSSD) and the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG) of the respondent's arrest and the three agencies shall confer to determine if the respondent poses a risk of harm to self or others and, if the respondent does not, the respondent shall be released; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that after consultation, if appropriate, MPD shall release the respondent after MPD has received signed notice from the respondent to appear for a status hearing sixty days from the date of release; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that after an arrest for abscondence from a facility, MPD shall give notice to and confer with Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS), CSSD, and OAG to determine if the youth shall be held for court or released to DYRS, pending further court action; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that when MPD releases a respondent to come to court for a status hearing or releases a respondent to DYRS, it shall immediately notify the Juvenile Clerk's Office at WalesCustodyOrders@dcsc.gov that the respondent has been arrested on a custody order and was released pursuant to this order; and it is

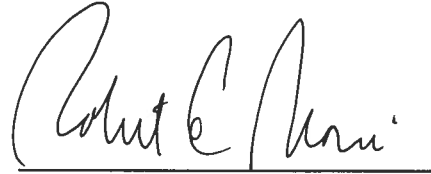
FURTHER ORDERED, that when the Juvenile Clerk's Office receives notice from MPD that a respondent who has been arrested on a custody order was released, the Juvenile Clerk's Office shall note the arrest and release in the respondent's case file and quash the custody order; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that nothing in this order shall be construed to permit MPD to release a respondent to an adult who has not demonstrated that he or she is a parent or guardian of the respondent; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this order will remain in effect until April 30, 2020.

SO ORDERED.

Date: March 18, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Morin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "M".

Robert E. Morin
Chief Judge