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August 13, 2021

Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
Superior Court of New Jersey
P.O. Box 037
Trenton, New Jersey 08625
Via email only: Comments.Mailbox@njcourts.gov

RE: Future of Court Operations – Remote and In-Person
Proceedings Comments

Dear Director Grant:

The Office of the Public Defender's Office of Parental Representation welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Future of Court Operations – Remote and In-Person Proceedings.

We appreciate that the AOC identifies the importance of proceedings in the child welfare docket and that consent would be necessary to proceed remotely in cases of consequence including fact-finding trials and permanency hearings. However, it is this office's position that termination of parental rights trials and any case where constitutional rights are at stake should not be permitted to proceed with any counsel appearing remotely. Only defendants should be permitted to appear remotely in these instances.

The Office of Parental Representation thanks you and the Court for considering our comments on this very important issue as we move forward in our representation of clients in court proceedings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn A. Veasey /s
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Assistant Public Defender
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Cc: Joseph Krakora, Public Defender