

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
COURT OF APPEAL, SECOND CIRCUIT
430 Fannin Street
Shreveport, LA 71101
(318) 227-3700**

No. 57,080-JWC

STATE OF LOUISIANA

IN THE INTEREST OF

J.C.

FILED: 05/08/26

RECEIVED: E-FILED 05/08/26

On application of State of Louisiana DCFS for SUPERVISORY WRIT in No. J-26-2663 on the docket of the West Monroe City Court, Parish of OUACHITA (WEST MONROE CITY COURT), Judge Alan James "Jim" Norris.

Keesha Mason Bordelon

Counsel for:
State of Louisiana DCFS

Allison Moore Cooper

Counsel for:
State of Louisiana

LEGAL SERVICE OF NORTH LOUISIANA
CeCe Chenielle Whitfield

Counsel for:
J.C.

Adam Jordan Ross

Counsel for:
Chelsea Haley

SMITH & NWOKORIE, LLC
Anselm Nnaemeka Nwokorie

Counsel for:
Ricario Curry

Before PITMAN, COX, and STEPHENS, JJ.

WRIT GRANTED AND MADE PEREMPTORY; REMANDED.

The applicant, the State of Louisiana DCFS, seeks supervisory review of the trial court's ruling dismissing this case. This writ is granted and made peremptory. On April 29, 2026, the trial court issued an instanter order pursuant to La. Ch. C. arts. 619 and 620, and the minor child was placed in the custody of DCFS. La. Ch. C. art. 624 provides that if the court issues an instanter order, as in this case, a continued custody hearing "shall be held by the court within three days after the issuance of the order." No such hearing occurred in this case as the trial court dismissed the matter on the basis that no attorney for the applicant timely

appeared at the hearing on May 4, 2026. The requirement of a continued custody hearing is mandatory. The health, welfare, and safety of the child are the paramount concern in child in need of care proceedings, and based on the circumstances of this case, we find that the trial court erred in granting a dismissal. Accordingly, the trial court's ruling is reversed and this matter is remanded for a continued custody hearing in accordance with La. Ch. C. art. 624, et seq. within five days of the date of this order.

Shreveport, Louisiana, this 12 day of May, 2026.







FILED: May 12, 2026



DEPUTY CLERK