

# The Supreme Court of South Carolina

Re: Newly Appointed or Nominated Magistrate Jury  
Trial Observations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Appellate Case No. 2020-000447

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## ORDER

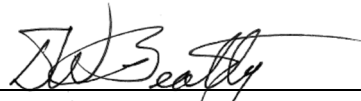
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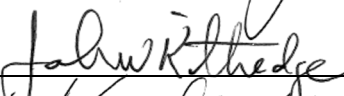
The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has forced the South Carolina Judicial Branch to alter our courts' normal operating procedures, including continuing many jury trials and limiting attendance at in-person hearings and trials to attorneys, parties, and other necessary persons. Although necessary, these limitations have nevertheless resulted in hardships for newly nominated or appointed magistrates seeking to satisfy the circuit court components of the trial observation requirements of S.C. Code Ann. §22-1-16 (2017).

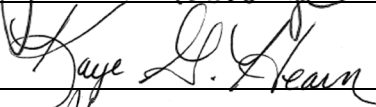
Based on these hardships, the Court finds it appropriate to allow a newly nominated or appointed magistrate to satisfy the requirements of §22-1-16 (B) (3) and (4) (one criminal and one civil jury trial in circuit court) by viewing recorded circuit court jury trial proceedings that are approved by the Supreme Court and broadcast online via Cisco WebEx. Completion and verification are subject to the following conditions:


Only magistrates nominated or appointed pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §22-1-10 (2017) will be granted access to recorded proceedings. A magistrate or nominee must view the entire trial proceeding. Attendance, log-in information, and attention tracking will be provided to South Carolina Court Administration. A magistrate or nominee who completes a qualifying trial observation under this order shall indicate on the judge's signature line of the Certificate of Trial Experience that the observation was completed "Via Cisco Webex."

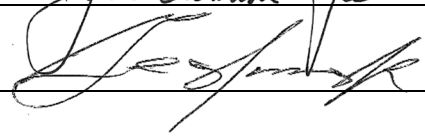
Further details related to broadcast time, access, and other pertinent information will be provided to nominees and magistrates by South Carolina Court Administration.

  
\_\_\_\_\_ C.J.

  
\_\_\_\_\_ J.

  
\_\_\_\_\_ J.

  
\_\_\_\_\_ J.

  
\_\_\_\_\_ J.

Columbia, South Carolina  
October 22, 2020