

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
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COUNTY OF CHARLESTON)
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IN THE PROBATE COURT

**EMERGENCY ORDER CLOSING THE
CHARLESTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT
DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump issued a Proclamation Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease Outbreak;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster declared a state of emergency throughout the State of South Carolina in response to the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), pursuant to Executive Order No. 2020-08;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump announced that all Americans, including the young and healthy, should avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 people;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Supreme Court of South Carolina issued a Memorandum to all Trial Courts postponing all jury trials and stating that non-jury trials and other hearings may continue at the trial judge's discretion;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of South Carolina further stated in the March 16, 2020 Memorandum that, to the extent possible and circumstances warrant, hearings that can be held by video may be held remotely;

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster directed that all non-essential employees and staff of the State of South Carolina shall not report to work, physically or in-person, effective Friday, March 20, 2020, and until further notice, pursuant to Executive Order No. 2020-11;

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WHEREAS, by Order of the Supreme Court of South Carolina dated March 20, 2020, the public was no longer permitted access to the Supreme Court Building and the Calhoun Building;

WHEREAS, by Order of the Supreme Court of South Carolina dated March 20, 2020, incoming paper documents delivered to the South Carolina Supreme Court and the South Carolina Court of Appeals are subject to a 48-hour quarantine period once they are physically received by the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 represents an evolving public health threat, which requires that the Charleston County Probate Court continue to take all necessary actions to protect the health of the public and the health of court personnel and their families;

WHEREAS, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 14-23-220, “[t]he probate court shall be deemed open at all times for the transaction of ordinary business which may be necessary, when previous notice is not required to be given to the persons interested”;

WHEREAS, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 14-23-230, “[a] probate court may be adjourned as occasion may require”;

NOW, THEREFORE effective March 21, 2020, in order to protect the health of the public and the health of court personnel and their families, the Charleston County Probate Court will be closed until further Order of this Court.

The Charleston County Probate Court will continue to accept emergency filings. A drop-box will be located in the lobby of the Charleston County Judicial Center, located at 100 Broad Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29401, and any filings can be made via the drop-box at any time that the Judicial Center is accessible to the public. Emergency filings can also be scanned and electronically transmitted to the Court via email to James Ward (jward@charlestoncounty.org), so long as the original filing is sent immediately by U.S. Mail.

The Charleston County Probate staff will be working remotely and will continue to serve our citizens by phone, video conferencing, email, and texting.

The Charleston County Probate will continue to hold civil commitment hearings via video conferencing.

The Charleston County Probate Court will hear all emergency matters via video conferencing. All currently scheduled non-emergency matters are hereby cancelled.

Adult Drug Court, Juvenile Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Veterans Treatment Court sessions are postponed pending further Order of this Court.

In the near future, marriage license applications will be completed online through the Charleston County Probate Court's Live Online Virtual E-Marriage Application (LOVE) system.

If you have any questions, please call or email the appropriate staff member from the staff listing attached to this Order. If you cannot otherwise get assistance, please contact Judge Irvin Condon via his mobile phone at (843) 817-2039 or by email at irvcondon@charlestoncounty.org.

This Order supersedes this Court's Emergency Order Concerning Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) dated March 17, 2020.

This Order shall be subject to such further Orders of this Court as may become necessary.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



IRVIN G. CONDON
Judge of Probate
Charleston County

This 21st day of March, 2020
Charleston, South Carolina.

IRVIN G. CONDON
Judge of Probate
TAMARA C. CURRY
Associate Judge of Probate
LENNA S. KIRCHNER
Associate Judge of Probate
PETER A. KOUTEN
Associate Judge of Probate



COMMITMENT DIVISION
Judicial Center
100 Broad Street, Suite 469
Charleston, SC 29401
843.958.5180
Fax: 843.958.5191

ESTATE DIVISION
Historic Courthouse
84 Broad Street
Charleston, SC 29401
843.958.5030
Fax: 843.958.5044

PROBATE COURT STAFF

ESTATE DIVISION

Alison Atwood	Litigation-Clerk of Court - Estate Division (958-5031) aatwood@charlestoncounty.org
Robin Simmons	Estates ending in 0, 5 (958-5038) rsimmons@charlestoncounty.org
Sharon Clark	Estates ending in 1, 6 (958-5033) sclark@charlestoncounty.org
Jamie Robinson	Estates ending in 2, 7 (958-5036) jrobinson@charlestoncounty.org
Tleshia Schoenith	Estates ending in 3, 8 (958-5037) tschoenith@charlestoncounty.org
Theresa Padron	Estates ending in 4, 9 (958-5034) tpadron@charlestoncounty.org
Tina Grooms	Customer Service Representative (958-5030) tgrooms@charlestoncounty.org

COMMITMENT AND GUARDIANSHIP/CONSERVATORSHIP DIVISION

Regina LeBlanc	Clerk of Court for Commitment Division (958-5192) rleblanc@charlestoncounty.org
Megan Arnett	Commitment Clerk (958-5188) marnett@charlestoncounty.org
Skylar Shepard	Commitment Clerk (958-5185) sshepard@charlestoncounty.org
Jennifer Curry	Guardianship/Conservatorship Clerk, Odd # Cases (958-5184) jcurry@charlestoncounty.org
Tina Homer	Guardianship/Conservatorship Clerk, Even # Cases (958-5190) thomer@charlestoncounty.org
Elizabeth Sykes	Guardianship/Conservatorship Coordinator (958-5187) esykes@charlestoncounty.org Community Outreach ~ Adult Guardianship Assistance and Monitoring Program

MARRIAGE LICENSE DIVISION

Regina LeBlanc	Supervisor (958-5192) rleblanc@charlestoncounty.org
Portia Geathers	Marriage License Clerk (958-5183) pgeathers@charlestoncounty.org

ADULT DRUG COURT

Kate Burroughs	Coordinator (958-5189) kburroughs@charlestoncounty.org
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MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Hollen Sellers	Coordinator (958-5186) hsellers@charlestoncounty.org
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JUVENILE DRUG COURT

Megan Arnett	Coordinator (958-5188) marnett@charlestoncounty.org
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VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Hollen Sellers	Coordinator (958-5186) hsellers@charlestoncounty.org
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STAFF

Harry D. Cale, III	Financial Officer (958-5196) hcale@charlestoncounty.org
James I. Ward, IV, Esquire	Law Clerk (958-5012) jward@charlestoncounty.org
Julius J. Gailliard	Law Clerk (958-5045) jgailliard@charlestoncounty.org

Notice from Charleston County Probate Court

The Charleston County Probate Court, in order to protect the health of the public and the health of court personnel and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic, will be closed until further notice. Probate Court staff will be working remotely and will continue to serve our citizens by phone, video conferencing, email, and texting.

Probate Court filings sent via regular U.S. Mail will be processed as soon as practicable. The Court will continue to accept emergency filings. Emergency filings can be scanned and electronically transmitted via email to James Ward (jward@charlestoncounty.org), so long as the original filing is sent immediately by U.S. Mail.

Civil commitment hearings will be conducted via video conferencing. The Charleston County Probate Court will hear all emergency matters via video conferencing. All currently scheduled non-emergency matters are hereby cancelled. Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Veterans Treatment Court sessions are postponed.

Charleston County Probate Court is working to assist Charleston County couples who are getting married within the next 30 days (and this will be extended if needed) during the pandemic. The Live Online Virtual E-Marriage (LOVE) system should be live in the coming days and the website will be the best source of updated information: <https://ccprobate.charlestoncounty.org/marriage-license.php>.

If you have any questions, please call or email the appropriate staff member from the attached staff listing. If you cannot otherwise get assistance, please contact Judge Irvin Condon via his mobile phone at 843-817-2039 or by email at irvcondon@charlestoncounty.org.