



State of South Carolina
The Family Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Karen S. Roper
Judge

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MEMORANDUM

To: Family Court Practitioners of the Pickens County Bar
From: Karen S. Roper, Chief Administrative Judge for Pickens County Family Court
Subject: Chief Justice Beatty's Memorandum on Court Operations 09/14/2020
Date: September 15, 2020

Greetings,

In compliance with Chief Justice's Beatty's Memorandum on Court Operations issued on September 14, 2020, the following procedures will be implemented in Pickens County Family Court:

1. Beginning September 21, 2020, hearings will be scheduled as in-person, unless, in the discretion of the court, a remote hearing is appropriate. **Any matters currently scheduled as a remote hearing shall proceed remotely, unless you are informed otherwise by the court.**
2. The procedures outlined in Section 9.b. of my Memorandum of April 8, 2020, regarding Motions for Temporary Relief, are rescinded. "Normal" docketing and scheduling procedures shall resume.
3. Please continue to indicate on your hearing requests whether you prefer an in-person or remote hearing. Any remote hearing requests must contain e-mail addresses of all parties. Consent of the parties or attorneys is not required for a remote hearing.
4. In-person hearings will be conducted in a manner that complies with established COVID-19 protocol. Attendance at hearings will be limited to parties, attorneys, essential witnesses, and court staff. Face masks and social distancing are required.

5. Mass hearings are not permissible under the Chief's latest directive. Each in-person hearing must be staggered so that at least twenty (20) minutes separate the conclusion of one hearing and the beginning of the next hearing. This will limit the number of hearings that can be scheduled each day.
6. You may continue to submit documents for approval of uncontested divorces or settlement agreements without a hearing, per Supreme Court directives in 2020-000447. I strongly encourage you to utilize this process, and only request docket time for those matters that cannot be resolved on written submissions.

Thank you for your continued patience as we implement the many changes brought to us by the COVID-19 pandemic. Hopefully this return to some of our familiar procedures will improve court accessibility yet maintain safety for our attorneys, clients, and staff. Stay healthy and safe!