

ORDER FOR EMERGENCY TEMPORARY MEASURES

Whereas, On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic of COVID-19 and;

Whereas, The Circuit Court of Florence County is committed to providing open access to the court system while protecting the health and safety of court staff, litigants, attorneys and the public;

NOW THEREFORE, the Court enters the following Temporary Order intended to ensure the continuous performance of the Court's essential functions and operations while at the same time seeking to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19:

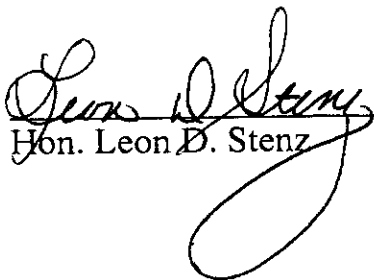
TEMPORARY ORDER

- 1.) This order shall be effective March 18, 2020 and continue until May 1, 2020, unless further extended by court order;
- 2.) All Jury trials will be rescheduled until an available time after May 1, 2020;
- 3.) All non-essential court hearings will not be scheduled or will be adjourned until after May 1, 2020;
- 4.) Essential court hearings and those with statutory or constitutional deadlines will continue to be scheduled and held as required. If appropriate, the court may find good cause to adjourn these hearings. These hearings include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Juvenile hearings
 - b. Emergency Mental Commitments
 - c. Temporary Restraining Orders and Injunctions
 - d. Bail hearings for defendants in custody
 - e. Initial appearances for defendants in custody
 - f. Preliminary Hearings if the time limits are not waived

- g. Guardianship and Protective Placement hearings that can not be adjourned without prejudice to the proposed ward
 - h. Other time sensitive hearings approved by the Judge
- 5.) Scheduling of essential court hearings will be done in a manner that avoids a hearing running into subsequent hearings and avoids the accumulation of other litigant, attorneys, or the public;
- 6.) At any essential hearing, the parties, their attorneys and witnesses are allowed and encouraged to appear by phone or video. If personal appearances are required or if any members of the public attend a hearing, a six (6) foot social interaction distance shall be maintained;
- 7.) The Clerk of Courts office will remain open for limited critical services;
- 8.) Attorneys for each party are required contact the Clerk of Court to obtain a new hearing date and are required to notify their clients regarding this order, the adjournments and the new hearing date.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2020.

BY THE COURT:


Hon. Leon D. Stenz