

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

WASHINGTON, SC.

SUPERIOR COURT

PROTOCOL RE: CIVIL MOTION CALENDAR

The following protocols are hereby established regarding the scheduling of civil motions and hearings in Washington County. These protocols are issued pursuant to Superior Court Administrative Order 2020-08.

1. NON-DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS:

New motions or motions that were previously filed or scheduled for hearing on or after March 16, 2020 and remain unresolved may be decided on the filings or assigned a hearing date on the regular motion calendar by submitting a completed Covid-19 Hearing/Conference request form to the clerk by electronic mail for hearing by any party. Motions will be conducted remotely using WebEx on the third Monday of every month as provided in Rule 2.5 of the Superior Court Rules of Practice.

2. DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS:

All dispositive motions will be conducted remotely on the third Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of every month as determined by the Clerk. Hearing dates and times will be assigned by the clerk. A party seeking to assign a dispositive motion shall submit a Covid-19 Hearing/Conference request form and all other documents required pursuant to the Administrative Order now in effect for Dispositive motions.

3. PRETRIAL CONFERENCES, STATUS CONFERENCES/CONTROL CALENDAR:

Pretrial conferences, status conferences and control calendar conferences will be conducted remotely using WebEx on every Thursday. The Clerk assigned to the civil calendar will schedule

the conferences. An attorney who wishes to schedule a conference may do so by submitting a Covid-19 Hearing/Conference request form electronically to the clerk. The clerk will assign the conference date and time.

4. TRIAL CALENDAR CALL (TCC)

Jury Trials: All parties seeking a jury trial before January 1, 2021 should consult Administrative Order 2020-08. TCC relating to jury trials will be continued to a date and time after January 1, 2021.

Bench Trials: The party who wishes to explore the option of a bench trial should consult Administrative Order 2020-08.

5. IN-PERSON MOTIONS AND HEARINGS:

Any party may request an in-person motion or hearing at any time by submitting a Covid-19 Hearing/Conference request form to the clerk assigned to the civil calendar. The clerk will assign the date and time of the in-person motion or hearing.

All cases involving *pro se* litigants require an in-person hearing.

This Protocol shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded by this Court.

/s/

Sarah Taft-Carter
Associate Justice

Dated: September 18, 2020