

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTIES OF ALLENDALE/BEAUFORT/COLLETON/HAMPTON/JASPER

2020 MAR 23 PM 3:51
JERRI ANN ROSENBAU
BEAUFORT COUNTY, S.C.
CLERK OF COURT

**FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
JOINT ORDER BY THE CHIEF JUDGES
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES FOR THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS AND
THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS**

Per the order dated March 18, 2020 by the Chief Justice of South Carolina, **all court proceedings are cancelled until May 1, 2020**. The March 18, 2020 order, states “[u]nless otherwise ordered, **only emergency hearings** shall be held at the discretion of each Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes [emphasis added]” until subsequent order by the Chief Justice.

Additionally, each County Administrator may have closed or instituted limited access to the public to all county buildings in Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties. As such each Courthouse will only be open for emergency hearings and emergency filings as outlined below.

IT IS ORDERED that in the **Court of Commons Pleas for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit** all matters that require an emergency hearing (such as injunctions) must be filed through e-filing for review by the Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes, Judge Deadra L. Jefferson. If a hearing is required, it will subsequently be scheduled as determined by the Court and the parties notified.

Effective Friday, March 20, 2020, many of the counties will only have essential personnel available and many Common Pleas Clerk of Court offices will be working remotely. As such, attorneys may continue to file all civil documents, pleadings, and necessary exhibits electronically. Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper County Jury and Non-Jury Trial rosters will continue to be published for the purpose of notifying litigants that their cases will be eligible for trial when the normal court schedule resumes. Please inform the respective Clerk of Court’s office if the case is ready for trial. All motions for status conferences with a proposed order should be filed electronically for the Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes, Judge Deadra L. Jefferson. Telephone status conferences will be scheduled as needed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED in light of the foregoing language, in the **Court of General Sessions** for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit all matters that require an emergency hearing must be sent to the Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes, Judge Carmen T. Mullen for review. If a hearing is required, it will be subsequently scheduled at the direction of Judge Mullen. Emergency motions should be filed in the respective County General Sessions Clerk of Court’s office as necessary.

Examples of Emergency Hearings include, but are not limited to:

- Bond hearings that cannot be heard on the magistrate level,

- Medical emergencies of incarcerated persons as deemed by the local Detention Center,
- All other emergencies that may arise on a case-by-case basis.

Scheduling of Emergency hearings will be held at the direction of Judge Mullen. All other General Sessions matters to include: bench warrant hearings, probations revocations, motions that are not bond-related, and bond recommitment hearings are postponed. Any telephone status conferences will be scheduled by Judge Mullen as needed.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED the above-referenced procedure will be implemented in The Court of Common Pleas and in The Court of General Sessions for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit until further notice.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Deadra L. Jefferson

The Honorable Deadra L. Jefferson
Chief Administrative Judge
Common Pleas, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

s/Carmen T. Mullen

The Honorable Carmen T. Mullen
Chief Administrative Judge
General Sessions, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

March 19, 2020
At Chambers