

Members of the Davidson County Domestic Bar,

Pursuant to the Tennessee Supreme Court's Order dated February 12, 2021, the Third Circuit Court intends to resume in-person hearings beginning March 16, 2021. As of that date, all matters before this Court will be heard in-person unless permission is granted for all or a portion of the matter to be heard remotely. Whether a matter can be heard remotely will be determined on a case-by-case basis. The Court will decide remote participation requests based upon age, health issues, the nature of the litigation and whether the requesting participants have been vaccinated. Counsel requesting that they, their clients, or witnesses be permitted to appear remotely must contact the Court's office directly or, if time allows, file a motion requesting said permission. Zoom links will no longer be posted with the docket and will only be given out once permission to appear remotely is granted. The Court intends to keep in place all pandemic protocols including social distancing and masks in the hall and the courtroom to ensure that all in-person attendees may safely participate.

While the Court recognizes that some attorneys may be resistant to return to in-person hearings for health or convenience reasons, the Court feels that it is necessary to prevent our caseload from falling further behind. Remote hearings are cumbersome and problematic and routinely suffer delays due to participants not being present when their case is called or technical difficulties arising which require time-consuming troubleshooting to get all parties connected. The time to complete each docket has nearly doubled since implementing remote hearings. Consequently, trials are being delayed or take longer and available trial dates are becoming further and further away.

The Court looks forward to welcoming attorneys and litigants back into the courtroom and giving the parties and attorneys the opportunity to adjudicate these important family law cases as soon as reasonably possible.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding,

Phillip Robinson, Judge  
Third Circuit Court  
20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
Nashville, Tennessee