



IN THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT OF DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE 20TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

September 8, 2021

JUDGE PHIL SMITH REINSTATES REMOTE HEARINGS IN SPECIFIED CASES

Due to the recent uptick of COVID-19 cases in the Middle Tennessee area, Judge Phil E. Smith hereby reinstates virtual hearings for certain cases in the Fourth Circuit Court of Davidson County, Tennessee.

Effective Monday, September 13, 2021 and continuing through Friday, October 1, 2021, hearings will be conducted as follows:

Monday Child Support Dockets (9/13, 9/20, 9/27)

All dockets will be heard via Zoom ONLY.

- Information will be provided to the attorneys and litigants of the cases scheduled each week. If you fail to receive instruction on how to participate on a hearing by 12:00 noon on the Friday preceding the hearing date, please contact our office at: 615-862-5910 regarding information on the same.

Tuesday Uncontested Divorce Dockets-ID Cases (9/14, 9/21, 9/28)

Dockets will be held BOTH In-Person and via Telephone (Bridge Line).

- **The ability to participate via Bridge Line is OPTIONAL.** If this option is chosen, the attorneys and litigants who are Pro Se **MUST** notify the Court by 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the hearing date as to the choice to participate via Bridge Line.
- If the Bridge Line option is chosen, **ALL** final paperwork (i.e. Final Decree of Divorce) **MUST** be filed by 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the hearing date. If these deadlines are missed, the hearing may still take place in person on the date scheduled **OR** may be re-set for another date to be heard via Bridge Line.
- Once it is confirmed that a case will proceed by Bridge Line, attorneys and litigants will be provided with specific instruction regarding how to participate via Bridge Line by 12:00 noon on the Monday prior to the hearing. If you fail to receive this instruction by 12:00 noon on the Monday preceding the hearing date, please contact our office at: 615-862-5910 regarding information on the same.

- Whether appearing in-person or Bridge Line, all parties participating **MUST** appear in the same manner (*i.e. there is no option to have someone appear by Bridge Line and for someone to appear in-person for the same hearing.*)

Tuesday Default Divorce Dockets (9/14, 9/21, 9/28)

Dockets will be held BOTH In-Person and via Zoom.

- **The ability to participate via Zoom is OPTIONAL.** If this option is chosen, the attorneys and litigants who are Pro Se **MUST** notify the Court by 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the hearing date as to the choice to participate via Zoom.
- Once it is confirmed that a case will proceed by Zoom, attorneys and litigants will be provided with specific instruction regarding how to participate via Zoom by 12:00 noon on the Monday prior to the hearing. If you fail to receive this instruction by 12:00 noon on the Monday preceding the hearing date, please contact our office at: 615-862-5910 regarding information on the same.
- Whether appearing in-person or Zoom, all parties participating **MUST** appear in the same manner (*i.e. there is no option to have someone appear by Zoom and for someone to appear in-person for the same hearing.*)

Wednesday Uncontested Divorce Dockets-ID Cases (9/15, 9/22, 9/29)

Dockets will be held BOTH In-Person and via Telephone (Bridge Line).

- **The ability to participate via Bridge Line is OPTIONAL.** If this option is chosen, the attorneys and litigants who are Pro Se **MUST** notify the Court by 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the hearing date as to the choice to participate via Bridge Line.
- If the Bridge Line option is chosen, **ALL** final paperwork (*i.e. Final Decree of Divorce*) **MUST** be filed by 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the hearing date. If these deadlines are missed, the hearing may still take place in person on the date scheduled **OR** may be re-set for another date to be heard via Bridge Line.
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- Whether appearing in-person or Bridge Line, all parties participating **MUST** appear in the same manner (*i.e. there is no option to have someone appear by Bridge Line and for someone to appear in-person for the same hearing.*)

Wednesday Default Divorce Dockets (9/15, 9/22, 9/29)

Dockets will be held BOTH In-Person and via Zoom.

- **The ability to participate via Zoom is OPTIONAL.** If this option is chosen, the attorneys and litigants who are Pro Se **MUST** notify the Court by 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the hearing date as to the choice to participate via Zoom.
- Once it is confirmed that a case will proceed by Zoom, attorneys and litigants will be provided with specific instruction regarding how to participate via Zoom by 12:00 noon on the Monday prior to the hearing. If you fail to receive this instruction by 12:00 noon on the Friday preceding the hearing date, please contact our office at: 615-862-5910 regarding information on the same.
- Whether appearing in-person or Zoom, all parties participating **MUST** appear in the same manner (*i.e. there is no option to have someone appear by Zoom and for someone to appear in-person for the same hearing.*)

Thursday Show Cause Dockets (9/16, 9/23, 9/30)

ALL Dockets will be heard In-Person.

Friday Motion Dockets (9/17, 9/24/10/1)

ALL Dockets will be heard via Zoom ONLY.

- Instructions on how to participate via Zoom and the time scheduled for cases will be posted on the Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk's website on the Tuesday prior to the Motion Docket each week.
- Please be sure to look for the "Staggered Motion Docket" found on the Circuit tab of the website under the section for ****4th CIRCUIT****. You will have to scroll down the page to see this section. This webpage may be located by clicking [HERE](#)
- For attorneys that may be at the courthouse for hearings in other courts, Fourth Circuit will make the jury room available to allow attorneys to participate via Zoom at the courthouse.

For any questions or clarifications about this or any other matters, please feel free to contact the Fourth Circuit Court at: 615-862-5910 OR you may email: stephaniewilliams@jnsnashville.gov

This schedule may be extended by the Court beyond October 1, 2021, if that is the case, notice will be provided no later than Wednesday, September 29, 2021.

You may follow Judge Smith on Twitter and Instagram for additional updates and information [@JudgePhilSmith](#) or via Facebook at: [JudgePhilSmith2022](#)