



FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024



It's officially Fall! Let's hope Mother Nature got that memo and sends us some cooler weather SOON! During this season, we think about our families in transition and how they will grapple with changes to family celebrations and gatherings during the upcoming holiday season. If you have a pending case that involves minor children and the holiday schedule may be at issue, we urge you to begin discussions to resolve these issues. Where there is no resolution, please file your motions early to ensure timely resolution before the holidays.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024, MOTION DOCKET

The Staggered Motion Docket for this upcoming Friday, September 27th, is posted on the Circuit Court Clerk's website. We have a default docket and dockets at 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Participation by Zoom is still an option for the default and 9:00 a.m. dockets. **The 9:30 a.m. docket is in-person.** We will hear cases until 11:00 a.m. at which time we will need to take a recess. We hope to conclude the docket by 11:00 a.m. If not, we will resume the docket at 1:30 p.m. for any remaining cases.

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE WEEK

Judicial Conference is October 14th - October 17th. The Court will maintain regular dockets during this week, including Special Master Ballinger's Order of Protection Docket.

NOTE: Irreconcilable Differences divorces heard on October 15th and October 16th will be only those with appearance waivers.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024, MOTION DOCKET

There will be **NO** Motion Docket on Friday, October 25, 2024.

ORDERS FOR JUDGE KWELLER'S SIGNATURE

All proposed orders on matters heard by Judge Stanley A. Kweller must be submitted for entry no later than October 24, 2024.

**TIME FOR
SOMETHING NEW**

Pre-Trial Conferences with Judge Williams are now required in all contested matters set for final hearing. Pre-Trial Conferences shall occur after the Judicial Settlement Conference and shall be conducted by videoconference. Pre-Trial Conferences shall be scheduled in conjunction with the Judicial Settlement Conference and Final Hearing, and the dates for all three shall be included in the Order to Set.



WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE

We have an ongoing need for attorneys to represent indigent respondents and serve as guardian ad litem in termination of parental rights and adoption cases. If you are willing to serve, please contact Special Master Kristen Menke at: kristenemenke@jnsnashville.gov.

MOTIONS TO WAIVE HOMESTUDY, ORDER OF REFERENCE AND SIX-MONTH WAITING PERIOD

If an adoption case meets the statutory requirements for a waiver of the home study, order of reference and six-month waiting period, an order for the same may be filed without the necessity of a motion. Please note the order waiving must be entered BEFORE a Motion to Set will be granted.

ORDERS TO SET

Orders to Set a final hearing in all termination of parental rights and adoption cases must be filed a minimum of 11 days (*including holidays and weekends*) prior to the final hearing date.



Our Updates and Announcements are for everyone. Please feel free to share with your staff, clients and anyone else who may have an interest. Anyone who would like to be added to the email list may contact Special Master Kristen Menke at: kristenemenke@jnsnashville.gov.

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

Judge Williams and the Fourth Circuit Court Staff