



FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCTOBER 1, 2024



October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This month is dedicated to acknowledging survivors and honoring those that lost their lives to domestic violence. It is also a time to raise awareness about the alarming statistics for those impacted by domestic violence, and to understand the devastating effect and the challenges families of domestic violence face. We are thankful for the resources available in our community to serve these families, including the [Office of Family Safety](#) and the [Jean Crowe Advocacy Center](#). We are especially grateful for all those who serve to aid families who experience domestic violence. Thank you for all you do!

Last month we were honored to attend the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Jean Crowe Advocacy Center (JCAC). The JCAC is the only fully court-based Family Justice Center in the country and serves as a national model for services provided to domestic violence survivors navigating the court system. Please join us in celebrating the JCAC and their accomplishments over the last 10 years. We share their commitment to remain steadfast in the fight against domestic violence and pledge to continue our efforts to provide support and resources to the families we serve.

Throughout the month of October, there are numerous community opportunities to gain insight, support, encourage and recognize families who have experienced domestic violence. The Fourth Circuit Court is committed to standing with our families. To that end, we encourage all of you to take advantage of these opportunities,

to take a moment to remember those lost, to acknowledge those who survived, and to improve your understanding of this critical issue faced by families in our community.



OUR FIRST 30 DAYS

We've officially completed our First 30 Days of this term! We started the month engaging in difficult and necessary conversations about how we can better serve families, our community and all of you. These conversations were productive and resulted in the following changes in our Court:

- We committed to maintain timely and consistent communications about the Fourth Circuit Court. We've accomplished this goal through our weekly newsletters. Thank you all for your kind words and feedback about this endeavor. We are excited to continue to make these weekly communications an ongoing part of our service.
- We implemented a Zoom option for motion hearings that do not require testimony.
- We implemented a no appearance docket for Irreconcilable Differences divorce hearings.
- We now hear uncontested and default adoption cases on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, and all Mondays are dedicated to contested Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption trials.
- We added a day and now hear Irreconcilable Differences and Default Divorce proceedings on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of each week.
- We implemented Pre-Trial Conferences for all contested cases to aid in trial preparation and to facilitate a more efficient trial practice.
- We implemented a monthly Status Conference Docket to track cases and assist attorneys and litigants in moving toward a timely adjudication of their case.

Your support and feedback allowed us to successfully implement all these changes.

Thank You!

Stay tuned for more as we continue to roll out our 90-Day plan!



Mark Your Calendar

MEET US AT THE BRIDGE

The 20th Annual *Meet Us at the Bridge* event hosted by the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence is taking place this **Saturday, October 5, 2024, at 8:30 a.m., at the John Seigenthaler Pedestrian Bridge**. This event honors those citizens who lost their lives to domestic violence in the last year and recognizes those who work each day to end domestic violence. More information may be found here: [Meet Us at the Bridge](#)

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 those with appearance waivers only.**

ORDERS FOR JUDGE KWELLER'S SIGNATURE

All Orders on matters heard by Judge Kweller must be submitted no later than October 24, 2024.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024, MOTION DOCKET

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



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