

NOTICE REGARDING HEARINGS/PROCEDURES BEFORE JUDGE SWEET

(DUE TO COVID-19)

Last updated: 8.3.2021

Martin County Courthouse is open to the public. All individuals entering a Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Courthouse facility, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, are recommended and encouraged to utilize face masks while in all areas of the facility, consistent with the recommendations of the CDC's July 27, 2021 updated guidance.

¹Please review Administrative Order 2021-11 for further information. This AO can be found on Judge Sweet's website. While **jury trials have resumed, in person**, remote hearings are again in place. ***Please continue to submit hard copies of all hearing materials to Judge Sweet, per procedures.***

Non-Evidentiary Hearings are held via CourtCall:

All Civil and Foreclosure **non-evidentiary** proceedings (including CMC's) will be held remotely via **CourtCall** until further notice. All parties must participate remotely, at any non-evidentiary proceeding before Judge Sweet. **Each party** must contact CourtCall directly **at least two business days before the hearing date** to arrange their telephonic appearance. Failure to do so will result in cancellation of the scheduled hearing. Please specify this CourtCall information on the notice of hearing. **NOTE:** CourtCall offers its service at no charge to court reporters and non-lawyer participants. **Each participant** must set up their CourtCall appearance by calling (888)882-6878 or by going to www.courtcall.com. Please direct all questions to Susanne Butler at butlers@circuit19.org; and, if relates to a residential foreclosure case, also to: foreclosure@circuit19.org. **FAILURE BY OPPOSING COUNSEL TO ARRANGE COURTCALL IS NOT AN EXCUSE TO HAVE A HEARING CANCELED OR POSTPONED.**

Evidentiary Hearings are held via ZOOM (jury trial/non-residential foreclosure cases)

¹All **evidentiary hearings (not jury trials)** will be held remotely via **Zoom**. Counsel who is scheduling the evidentiary hearing should confirm the hearing is evidentiary and request the Zoom flyer from Judge Sweet's judicial assistant at butlers@circuit19.org. Please remember to provide a copy of the notice of hearing, with Zoom instructions to all hearing participants, including attorneys, parties, court reporter and witnesses, so they will have the information. Please specify this information on the notice of hearing.

Residential Foreclosure Evidentiary Hearings, Including Non-Jury Trials:

All **Residential Foreclosure evidentiary** proceedings, including non-jury trials, will be held remotely via **Zoom** until further notice. Please contact Foreclosure@Circuit19.org to obtain a copy of the Court's Zoom flyer. And, direct all residential foreclosure questions to ButlerS@Circuit19.org and Foreclosure@Circuit19.org.

As to remote attendance, please wait patiently for the court to join/begin the call or reach your case remotely via Zoom as many cases are being handled via the remote platform.

FURTHER INFORMATION RE: EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS

If applicable, the court will place witnesses under oath by telephone. Unless all counsel agree to the identity of the witness, a copy of the witness' photo identification must be e-mailed to the court two business days prior to the hearing.

If applicable, **submit any documentary evidence to the court and all parties by e-mail in .pdf format no later than five business days prior to the hearing/trial.** Non-documentary evidence may be scanned and e-mailed to the court and all parties at least five business days prior to the hearing/trial.

¹2B. All other trial court proceedings: In order to minimize courthouse traffic, all trial court proceedings not listed in 2(A) of the AO must be conducted remotely unless the presiding judge determines that the interests of justice require the proceeding to be conducted in person. All remote proceedings must be conducted by the judge or other judicial officer from her or his courtroom, hearing room, or judicial chambers or office.

If a matter subject to this subsection was previously noticed as an in-person proceeding, it may not be logistically feasible or efficient to re-notice that proceeding. In such instances, the already noticed proceeding may still occur in-person.