

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

PROVIDENCE, SC

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT

NO. 2020-08

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

On May 18, 2020 in accordance with the Governor's continued directives and Executive Order 2020-12 of the Supreme Court, the Workers' Compensation Court shall take the following actions until further notice or until such time a new Administrative Order is issued.

1. The Court will continue to hear its pretrial calendar either telephonically or by video conference. All matters on the pretrial calendar must be conferenced. If the parties cannot agree to have their matter heard remotely, they shall advise the Court at the time allotted and the matter shall be continued to a date subsequent to June 1, at which time the Court will hear said matter in Court at a date and time specified by the Court.
2. The Court will continue to hear remotely other matters previously scheduled including but not limited to initial hearings, motions, and status conferences.
3. The Court will allow the filing of stipulations, consent decrees and final decrees disposing of cases. In doing so, the Court insists that Rule 7E of Article X be adhered to.
4. The Court will continue to hear commutations and denials and dismissals remotely, either telephonically or by video conference. In lieu of the employee's in person testimony, parties shall file an employee affidavit or interrogatories in which the employee agrees to said telephonic or video hearing. The settlements will be heard on the record with a stenographer present. All exhibits must be e-filed in advance of said hearing. Employees or employers may also take part in the telephonic or video hearing.
5. The Chief Judge will be available to hear any matters the parties deem urgent. The parties shall contact the Chief Judge for a date and time.
6. All in-person trials shall be resumed subsequent to June 1, 2020. Two (2) judges will hear trials in Court at a date and time specified by the Court. Both the

petitioner and the respondent will be limited to one (1) person per party, not including their legal representative.

7. All appellate arguments shall be heard remotely either telephonically or by WebEx. The Court will allow the parties to waive oral argument by stipulation.
8. By agreement of the parties, the Court will hear mediations remotely.
9. Filings shall continue to be submitted through the electronic filing system or by mail or other means. Those documents that require in person filing shall be done by appointment only, through the Workers' Compensation Court Clerk's Office (401-458-5000).
10. Public access to all Court proceedings shall be available by telephone or other means.

Entered as an Order of this Court, this **18th day of May 2020.**

ENTER:

/s/
Robert M. Ferrieri
Chief Judge

PER ORDER:

/s/
Nicholas DiFilippo
Administrator

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