

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

PROVIDENCE, SC

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT

NO. 2020-05

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

On March 17, 2020, Administrative Order 2020-02 was issued in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. In accordance with the Governor's continued directives and Executive Order 2020-09 of the Supreme Court, the Workers' Compensation Court shall take the following actions through May 17, 2020 or until such time a new Administrative Order is issued.

1. Effective April 20, 2020, the Court will 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 in June (provided that the Court is operational). The Court will hear contested cases if agreed to by the parties.
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. 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. With regard to scheduling matters, the Court will require that attorneys contact the clerk of the Judge to whom a matter has been assigned to obtain a date and time for a remote hearing.
7. All trials shall be continued to a date after May 17, 2020.
8. All appellate arguments shall be continued to a date after May 17, 2020. The Court will allow the parties to waive oral argument by stipulation.
9. By agreement of the parties, the Court will hear mediations remotely.
10. All Court Impartial Medical Exams are suspended through May 7, 2020.
11. Public access to all Court proceedings shall be available by telephone or other means.

Entered as an Order of this Court, this 14th day of April, 2020.

ENTER:

/s/
Robert M. Ferrieri
Chief Judge

PER ORDER:

/s/
Nicholas DiFilippo
Administrator