

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

PROVIDENCE, SC

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT

NO. 2020-02

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

In light of the ongoing public health crisis from the novel coronavirus (covid-19) pandemic occurring across the world, and in accordance with the Executive Order issued by Chief Justice Suttell on March 17, 2020, the Workers' Compensation Court shall take the following actions through April 17, 2020 or until such time a new Administrative Order is issued.

1. Effective March 23, 2020, the court will conduct telephonic pretrial conferences of uncontested matters. **By stipulation of the parties**, the court will hear contested pretrials telephonically wherein witnesses will appear by phone. The court will conduct telephonic initial hearings, motions and formal continued matters. The court will create a calendar upon which three judges will sit daily to hear these matters telephonically.
2. The court will allow the filing of stipulations, consent decrees and final decrees disposing of cases. In doing so, the court insists that signatures be in accordance with Rule 7E of Article X.
3. The court will conduct telephonic hearings relative to commutations and denials and dismissals. In lieu of the employee's testimony, parties shall file an employee affidavit or interrogatories. These settlements will be on the record with a stenographer present. All exhibits must be e-filed in advance of said hearing.
4. 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.
5. With regard to scheduling, the court will require the attorneys to contact the clerk of the judge to whom a matter has been assigned to obtain a date and time for a telephonic hearing.
6. All trials shall be continued to a date after April 17, 2020. All appellate arguments shall be continued to a date after April 17, 2020.

Entered as an Administrative Order of this Court, this 17th day of March, 2020.

ENTER:

PER ORDER:

/s/
Robert M. Ferrieri
Chief Judge

/s/
Nicholas DiFilippo
Administrator