

DIVISION C COVID-19 PROCEDURES

Zoom Requests

Judge Stromberg is offering to take up matters that require hearing in-person, in open court or via Zoom. Judge Stromberg's law clerk, Ellen Talbot, will reach out to you eight days prior to your hearing to confirm that your matter is going forward as scheduled. It is the Court's preference that hearings requiring witness testimony, as well as complex, multi-party hearings, be taken up in-person. Judge Stromberg is considering timely Zoom requests on a case-by-case basis.

Division C must have a definite answer as to how you wish to have your matter taken up, what the outstanding issues are, and how long you think it will take to present them (if requesting a hearing), no later than 7 days prior to your hearing date. Absent exigent circumstances, the Court will not entertain Zoom requests that are made later than 7 days prior to the date your matter is set.

Email addresses of all persons requiring a Zoom invitation must be provided to the Court at least 7 days prior to the date and time your rule to show cause is set.

The Court will generally honor Zoom requests of unopposed motions, for which there is proper notice to the other party.

When requesting a Zoom hearing for a case in which the opposing party is in proper person, please provide an email address or a working phone number that the Court can use to contact the opposing party for scheduling purposes.

Phone Conferences

The Court is offering telephone conferences to assist parties in reaching stipulations, however, the best way to ensure that you can make a consent judgment a part of the record is to appear in open court.

Telephone conferences will be limited to 15 minutes, and Judge Stromberg will only address issues that you have previously discussed among yourselves and specifically delineated in an email to her law clerk, who will reach out to you via email to confirm that your matter is going forward as scheduled.

Presence of Children in the Courtroom

If you plan to present a child's testimony to the Court, you must inform the Court at least 7 days prior to the date your matter is set.

Witnesses

Our dockets are arranged in a way such that there should be sufficient space in the courtroom for the parties and witnesses to socially distance. Should the courtroom be at capacity on the date your matter is set, or if your witnesses are sequestered, we ask that your witnesses remain outside of the courtroom. You will be responsible for calling your witness and getting them into the courtroom at the time they are needed.

102 Divorces

102 divorces may be granted on the pleadings, without necessity for hearing, if there is a waiver of appearance by the opposing party, and if all supporting documentation is filed into the record at least 48 hours prior to the hearing date. If all supporting documentation is not filed into the record 48 hours prior to the hearing, the attorney representing the movant must appear in open court to confirm the divorce. When filing a judgment of divorce in either St. James or Assumption, please attach a note to original judgment the date it is set for hearing, and request that the Clerk of Court hold the judgment for Judge Stromberg to sign on the record that day.

Masks and Social Distancing

Anyone entering the courthouse must wear a mask. Proper mask-wearing, with both the nose and mouth covered, will be enforced.

Attorneys may only enter chambers with permission from Judge Stromberg, and will not be permitted to enter chambers without a properly-worn mask. You must wear a mask when utilizing the courthouse conference rooms to minimize any potential spread of the virus to surfaces.