

UNCONTESTED DIVORCE CASES FOR MAY- JUNE 5, 2020

Beginning **Monday, May 4, 2020**, the Circuit Court for Montgomery County will conduct some uncontested divorce hearings remotely. If you or your client's uncontested divorce hearing was previously scheduled in May or June (before the court closure was announced) it will be conducted by a Magistrate **on the day it was originally scheduled**, subject to the limitations below.

The Magistrates will conduct these hearings remotely on a rotating basis as follows:

Magistrate Whittier	May 4 th – May 8 th
Magistrate Khozeimeh	May 11 th – May 15 th
Magistrate Segel	May 18 th – May 22 nd
Magistrate Polis	May 26 th – May 29 th
Magistrate Goldman	June 1 st – June 5 th

The hearings will be set in 15-minute increments using BlueJeans technology. This platform is very similar to Zoom. It will be an **audio only** proceeding.

The following hearings will be removed and reset to occur after the court reopens to the public: (1) hearings requiring an interpreter, (2) cases that are not in a posture to go forward (e.g. no answer/no default), and (3) cases that do not have all required documents in the file at least one week prior to the hearing. Required items include marital settlement agreements and child support guidelines (if applicable).

Counsel (and self-represented individuals) will receive a phone call the week prior to the hearing to confirm that all documents are filed, and that there are no questions as to authenticity. At that time, specific dial-in information will be provided for the hearing. Please expect a call from a **blocked** phone number approximately one week prior to your scheduled hearing. If you need to contact a Magistrate's assistant, or have questions about this procedure, you may send an email or leave a voicemail message.

For Magistrate Whittier	Jordan Allen	JAllen@mcccourt.com , 240-777-9310
For Magistrate Khozeimeh	Francisca Garcia	FGarcia@mcccourt.com , 240-777-9045
For Magistrate Segel	Ha Trinh	HTrinh@mcccourt.com , 240-777-9042
For Magistrate Polis	Gabriela Rodriguez	GRodriguez@mcccourt.com , 240-777-9054

For Magistrate Goldman

Kathy Herndon

KHerndon@mcccourt.com, 240-773-3955

No parties or counsel will be permitted in the courthouse during the closure. The Magistrate will not be present in the hearing room. Counsel must provide the call-in information to their clients. If any exhibits are not in the court file at least one week prior to the hearing, the hearing will be removed from the docket and rescheduled to occur after the court reopens to the public. If counsel files an agreement in the drop box, please clearly mark the outside of the envelope with the following message in bold: “**Exhibits for hearing scheduled for May __, 2020,**” to ensure it is docketed promptly.

If the time of the hearing is not convenient, please do not file a motion to postpone the hearing. The Clerk’s office has minimal staff and is unable to process motions to postpone. If the hearing date or time is not convenient, please contact the opposing counsel (or the opposing party, if applicable) to discuss resetting the hearing. Only then should you contact the Magistrate’s assistant to discuss whether a postponement can be granted. Please make your best effort to ensure your presence at the appointed date and time. To ensure the safety of our employees, we are working with very minimal staff and the assistants are not present in the courthouse. Everyone is working remotely. The assistants will check their email and voicemail as frequently as possible.

Please be sure to follow the directions set forth herein so that this process can run as smoothly as possible. No other family law matters will be heard, besides the uncontested divorces. Thanks for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Robert A. Greenberg, Administrative Judge