

## MEMORANDUM

To: Highland County Family Division Stakeholders

From: Circuit Judge Heather Beato 

RE: Moving from Virtual to In-Person Proceedings in Highlands Family Division

Date: July 6, 2021

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Pursuant to AOSC21-17 we are able to begin opening up operations for in-person hearings. While not all hearings will return to an in-person setting, many will.

Below is a guide as to whether hearings will be scheduled as Virtual or In-Person:

### **Virtual Hearings**

- Case Management Conference
- Pre-trial Conference
- Motion to Withdraw as Counsel
- Motion to Compel (re: discovery only)
- Final hearing where all issues are settled and agreed upon in writing
- Simplified Dissolution of Marriage
- Anything relying solely on legal argument, and no testimony and no/limited evidence is to be presented (i.e. Motion to Dismiss, Motion to Strike, etc.)
- Child Support DRD

### **In-Person Hearings**

- All Final Hearings where there are disputed issues.
- All Temporary Relief hearings where there are disputed issues.
- All Injunction cases
- All Pro Se Division proceedings (other than CMCs)
- Adoptions
- Contempt
- Name Change
- Any hearing where there will be testimony of witnesses and/or evidence presented to the Court

If a party feels there are special circumstances to a specific case that would best be served in an alternative format, the party may file a motion requesting a change from In-Person to Virtual or Virtual to In-Person, and the Court will consider the request.

Domestic Violence/Injunction hearings will return to In-Person proceedings on July 29, 2021, in Courtroom 1A. All other In-Person Family Division proceedings will begin on August 2, 2021, and will be held in Hearing Room 3B. Proceedings that will remain Virtual will continue to be in Virtual Courtroom/Hearing Room 3B.