

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Virtual Dropboxes - Please be reminded that the Circuit Court has established virtual dropboxes for the filing of discovery motions in Civil and Family Law cases. You are urged to learn about and utilize these dropboxes. Assuming that the Court of Appeals permits us to continue using these platforms when the court reopens, they may become the exclusive means for the filing of certain matters in most cases, at least until the introduction of MDEC in May, 2021. Today, the court issued its Administrative Order Regarding Electronic Signatures for these filings and any additional platforms the court may establish in the future.

Motions Hearings - Parties are also reminded that any motions scheduled to be heard on the regular civil motions docket (10:00 a.m., Monday-Thursday) during the months of March, April, May and June, can be decided without a hearing by consent of the parties. These include hearings for *ex parte* proof of damages, and related matters. Further information regarding this method of speedily resolving those matters, as well as the virtual dropbox discussed above, is available on the court's website, montgomerycountymd.gov/cct/.

Settlements or Mootness - In anticipation of the court's reopening, we are requesting that any persons who have resolved matters by way of settlement or who may have matters that are now moot notify the court at once, so the cases can be removed from future dockets. You may do so by providing the caption and case number, with a description of the motion or matter that has been resolved, and emailing it to mamjunemotions@mcccourt.com. Your name at the bottom of the email certifies that you have consulted with the opposing counsel or party (if unrepresented), and that those persons are in agreement as to the disposition of the motion or matter. It is vital that the court learn of these resolutions, as we will have a backlog of cases to be rescheduled upon our reopening. We ask for your cooperation is helping to alleviate that situation.

While the senior judges who handle mediations in civil and family cases are not conducting them at the present time, the court can provide the parties with the names of mediators who may assist you in resolving these matters. Please email our Special Magistrate Sarah Malik (smalik@mcccourt.com), and she will be glad to assist you.

Pending Fee Petitions in Estate Matters - Finally, some members of the bar have contacted me regarding outstanding fee petitions pending in estate matters. The Register of Wills office is closed, except for the processing of incoming correspondence. Nonetheless, Register of Wills Joe Griffin has graciously agreed to a process whereby we can identify estates that have fee petitions pending. You may contact him by email at jgriffin@rowmont.com, with information about your petition. He will ensure that the matter is flagged, which will expedite its processing, subject to the requirements of ET §7-502.

Robert A. Greenberg

Administrative Judge, Circuit Court for Montgomery County