

NOTICE REGARDING HEARINGS/PROCEDURES BEFORE JUDGE SWEET (DUE TO COVID-19)

Last updated: 3/2022

Martin County Courthouse is open to the public. Please be aware the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit is no longer requiring the use of face masks and physical distancing in the courthouses. However, an individual within any courthouse may choose to wear a face mask, if preferable. Hearings before Judge Sweet continue to be held remotely.

See full 'Procedures – Martin County' available on the Court's website for further, detailed information. See Administrative Orders 2021-11, 2021-14 and 2021-15 for further information. These AO's can be found on our Circuit's website. While **jury trials have resumed, in person**, remote hearings continue to be in place. ***Please continue to submit hard copies of the Motion, Notice of Hearing & proposed blank Order to Judge Sweet, per procedures (5-business days in advance of hearing).*** Any case law or statutes to be relied upon (with relevant portions highlighted); exhibits to motions, supporting affidavits, etc. ***must be submitted to the Court on a thumb drive (hard copies of these materials (only) are no longer to be provided in binder form)*** no later than five (5) working days prior to the hearing. Failure to provide hearing material timely may result in the cancellation of the scheduled hearing.

UMC, CMC & Non-Evidentiary Hearings are held via CourtCall:

All Civil and Foreclosure ***non-evidentiary*** proceedings will be held remotely via ***CourtCall*** until further notice. All parties must participate remotely, at any non-evidentiary proceeding before Judge Sweet. ***Each party*** must contact CourtCall directly ***at least two business days before the hearing date*** to arrange their telephonic appearance. Failure to do so will be construed as counsel's non-appearance. Please specify this CourtCall information on the notice of hearing. **NOTE:** CourtCall offers its service at no charge to court reporters and non-lawyer participants. ***Each participant*** must set up their CourtCall appearance by calling (888)882-6878 or by going to www.courtcall.com. Please direct all questions to Susanne Butler at butlers@circuit19.org; and, if question relates to a residential mortgage foreclosure case, also to: foreclosure@circuit19.org. **FAILURE BY COUNSEL TO TIMELY ARRANGE COURTCALL IS NOT AN EXCUSE TO HAVE A HEARING CANCELED OR POSTPONED.** Please do not contact the Judicial Assistant for last minute approval for late registration. Instead, cancel the online calendar entry, reschedule the hearing and file a Re-Notice of Hearing.

Evidentiary Hearings are held via ZOOM

All ***evidentiary*** hearings (not jury trials) will be held remotely via ***Zoom***. Counsel who is scheduling the evidentiary hearing should confirm the hearing is evidentiary and request the Zoom flyer from Judge Sweet's judicial assistant at butlers@circuit19.org. Please remember to provide a copy of the notice of evidentiary hearing, with Zoom instructions to all hearing participants, including attorneys, parties, court reporter and witnesses, so they will have the information. Please specify this information on the notice of hearing. ***Any hearing that is noticed via ZOOM without authorization from Judge Sweet's Office will result in immediate cancellation.***

Residential Foreclosure Evidentiary Hearings, Including Non-Jury Trials:

All ***Residential Foreclosure evidentiary*** proceedings, including non-jury trials, will be held remotely via ***Zoom*** until further notice. Please contact Foreclosure@Circuit19.org to obtain a copy of the Court's Zoom flyer. And, direct all residential foreclosure questions to ButlerS@Circuit19.org and Foreclosure@Circuit19.org. ***Any hearing that is noticed via ZOOM without authorization from Judge Sweet's Office will result in immediate cancellation.***

As to remote attendance, please wait patiently for the court to join/begin the call or reach your case remotely via Zoom as many cases are being handled via the remote platform.

FURTHER INFORMATION RE: EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS

If applicable, the court will place witnesses under oath by telephone. Unless all counsel agree to the identity of the witness, a copy of the witness' photo identification must be e-mailed to the court two business days prior to the hearing.

Evidence must be scanned and provided to all parties at least 5-business days prior to the hearing, ***a copy may be emailed to Judge Sweet for informational purposes only.*** Judge Sweet does not require his own set of exhibits. Exhibits should be provided to the office of the Clerk of Court (civil division) per their procedures - please contact their office for instructions at 772-288-5717. ***Failure to provide evidence per the Clerk of Court's requirements, prior to the hearing, may result in cancellation of the scheduled hearing.***