

Alissa Hudson

From: Robert Coleman <rcoleman@vacourts.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 3:47 PM
To: pwcbbar@mail-list.com
Cc: Rhonda Daley; Hill, Glendell; Alissa Hudson
Subject: UPDATES FROM GENERAL DISTRICT COURT

LISTMATES:

Please allow this email to serve as an update and friendly reminder of our operating procedures.

Thursday, November 5, 2020 is going to be a bust day in GDC. Case count is high, and the dockets are going to be long. As discussed back in August when we encountered heavy dockets, the following procedures were implemented. I have attached those guidelines as a gentle reminder of our operating procedures:

1. If feasible, continue your criminal and traffic cases by Agreed Order to reduce case counts, and alleviate the need for clients/witnesses to appear in Court.
2. All attorneys with clients charged with traffic infractions are asked to have clients STAY AT HOME. Attorneys can negotiate and resolve cases with client's consent, and telephone/email/text offers to resolve traffic infractions.
3. Attorneys with clients charged with misdemeanors and/or felonies are encouraged to have clients either wait outside of the building or (at a minimum) outside of the courtroom until the case is resolved and ready to go before a judge. Friends and family of defendants cannot come to Court.
4. Notices will be posted throughout the courthouse advising the general public that their case will not be called until they are physically present before a judge. This should eliminate fears of people being tried and/or convicted in their absence.
5. Attorneys are asked to adhere to mask and physical distancing requirements, and politely encourage others to do the same.
6. Sheriff Hill and his staff will be monitoring our hallways and will limit the number of people admitted into the Courthouse at any given time to safely attend GDC. He will provide water and shelter for those needing to wait outside the building before gaining admittance.

These measures will require a great deal of patience for all litigants, attorneys, and staff. We are committed to running these dockets as efficiently and safely as possible, but please understand we expect our dockets to run into the afternoon hours.

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:

1. Please remember that the filing deadline for all motions to be heard on the 830AM Motion's Docket is 3:00 PM the day prior to hearing. That is the case for written filings made in person in the Clerk's office, as well as any request for hearing made via email or facsimile. Any pleading or request filed for the Motion's docket must be received by 300PM to ensure the Clerk can locate and pull the file. **Everyone is encouraged to file Motions earlier in the day rather than later in the day to ensure your case is properly docketed.**
2. **All cases docketed for 830 AM (by written motion filed by 300PM the day prior) will be sent into Courtroom #1. All orders associated with that 830 Motion's filing will be resolved in Courtroom 1 on the date it was docketed for. If an Agreed Order is thereafter obtained, please bring that order to Court, as it will not be**

accepted at the Clerk's front counter as an Agreed Order once the case has been docketed. If you wish to resolve a case by Agreed Order, do not docket for an 830 AM motion.

Thank you for your patience and encouragement as we continue to provide the highest level of safety and service in these challenging times. If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to call or email me directly.

The Hon. Robert P. Coleman
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