

MEMORANDUM

From: Hon. JoAnn Johnson
Re: Status of Family Law Trials
Date: May 29, 2020

I have received several questions regarding the status of trials. Here is my best answer at the present time.

At an executive meeting yesterday, it was tentatively confirmed that the court closure will end June 10, 2020 as scheduled. However, this does not mean that the court will reopen at 100% capacity as the court must still comply with public health (and other) orders and recommendations. The re-opening is a work in progress and is largely dependent upon the ability of the court to access the necessary equipment to modify the public areas. As you can imagine, there is a huge demand for items not previously in demand such as plexiglass / plastic barriers to install between clerks and public. There is also the implementation of a scheduling system for access to various units within the courthouse and reconfiguring the workstations to comply with distance requirements. Limited numbers of staff have been brought in during the closure to work on all these necessary modifications and testing will occur over the next week.

Having said all this (I'm beginning to feel like a politician - let me give you my excuses before I tell you what you really want to know) the courtrooms will not be open to regular, non-emergency, court proceedings on June 10-12. Any matter set for those dates will be continued.

The Family Law Judicial officers will be meeting next week to determine how our trial calendars will be accommodated and how necessary rescheduling will be accomplished. Obviously, we will be focusing on the trials scheduled for the week of June 15 first and so on. I am requesting that those of you who have cases scheduled later on hold off on calling the judicial secretary unless, of course, the case has settled. Further, cases that involve custody and / or restraining orders, will take priority over property issues. Restraining orders will take priority over everything.

You can anticipate more definite information next week. I appreciate your continued patience.

Judge JoAnn Johnson
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