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March 30, 2020

To: The Charleston County Bar & Public Users

Re: Court Access during the COVID-19 Crisis

The Charleston County Master-in-Equity Office is reviewing the evolving situation based upon what has happened here in Charleston, the Chief Justice's recent Order & the current economic/coronavirus pandemic crisis.

Chief Justice Don Beatty's order of March 18, 2020 provides that foreclosures shall not proceed in any manner and so this court will not hold further hearings or sales or grant any writs of Assistance or Evictions at this time and until further direction is provided. Accordingly, all previously scheduled foreclosure hearings are cancelled through April and all foreclosure sales are cancelled through May.

I have made the decision to cancel all court hearings requiring an in- court appearance thru April. No hearings requiring oral testimony will be held except in event of an emergency. Attorneys who wish to have their currently scheduled status or motion hearings held via telephone conference are requested to notify this court the week ahead of the currently scheduled time. These telephone hearings will be scheduled as needed and may be re-scheduled from their currently set time as my docket is now set through May.

This office will reassess the situation as it develops and guidance is given but, for now, we seek to exercise caution and to keep the office functioning during this difficult time.

Mikell R. Scarborough
Master-in-Equity for
Charleston County

MRS:mrs