## State of South Carolina

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## **Workers' Compensation Commission** Advisory Notice

## **Commissioner's Hearings**

## March 21, 2020

In response to Governor McMaster's Executive Order 2020-11 issued on March 19, 2020, the SC Workers' Compensation Commission's office located at 1333 Main Street Columbia, SC 29202 will be closed to the public until further notice. The Commission will be operating with minimal staff on-site with the remaining staff working from home. The public's safety remains our top priority and appropriate safety protocols will be followed to minimize the spread of the COVID-19.

Effective immediately all live hearings are suspended until May 1, 2020, except for emergency situations, which will be determined on a case by case basis. The Commission lost the use of a number of sites for hearings and many of the available sites are not compliant with CDC guidelines. Commissioners' dockets will be managed in the best manner possible using Court Call, telephone, and other electronic methods. The format of the hearing will be decided by the jurisdictional Commissioner on a case-by-case and any hearings requested to be held via Court Call, the moving party will be responsible for the cost of Court Call's service. Hearings on motions and other pleadings may be conducted by telephone. Parties wanting to reschedule or postpone a hearing must contact the jurisdictional Commissioner's office. The Commission will readdress this policy on May 1, 2020.

Until further notice, all pleadings, motions, settlements and other claim related documents that cannot be submitted electronically must be submitted to the Commission by the US Postal Service. Responses to pleadings must be emailed to judicialanalysts@wcc.sc.gov. Form 70 Mediator Report must be emailed to mediation@wcc.sc.gov. Consent Orders resolving a hearing should be emailed to the Commissioner's Administrative Assistant. Personal delivery of documents will be accepted only in extreme circumstances.

Hearings on motions and other pleadings may be conducted by telephone. Parties wanting to reschedule a hearing must contact the jurisdictional Commissioner's office. Please continue to monitor our website <u>www.wcc.sc.gov</u> for updates and direct any questions or comments to

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