

News Release



March 19, 2020
Release Number: 4397

Charleston County Government Coronavirus / COVID 19 Information

In an effort to protect the safety of our employees as well as the public, Friday March 20 will be the last day Charleston County Buildings will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Starting Monday, March 23, Charleston County buildings will only be open to the public between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. This does not include the Judicial Center which has already limited public access, but will continue emergency filings. Staff will be working normal business hours to assist citizens via phone and email.

Veterans Affairs

The Charleston County Veterans Affairs Office will be closing to the public beginning Friday, March 20. Staff will continue to provide services by phone, email or fax.

Phone: 843-974-6360

Email: vaoffice@charlestoncounty.org

Fax: 843-745-2354

Veterans can continue to get information about benefits or file a claim for benefits by visiting <https://www.va.gov/>. Veterans with claims specific questions may request information via telephone at 1-800-827-1000.

Veterans who have flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough and shortness of breath, should call the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center (VAMC) at 843-789-6400 or 1-888-878-6884 **before** visiting. In addition to calling first, consider using virtual care options such as telehealth (<https://telehealth.va.gov/type/home>) or My HealthVet Secure Messaging (<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/web/myhealthvet/secure-messaging-spotlight>).

Magistrate Court

Starting Friday, March 20, Charleston County Magistrate Courts will be limiting access to the courts, however staff will still be available by phone or email.

- Traffic citations can be paid here: <https://jcmsweb.charlestoncounty.org/onlinepayments/>
- Jury trials for the weeks of March 23, March 30 and April 6 have been cancelled.
- Traffic court for the weeks of March 23 and March 30 has been rescheduled.
- All civil evictions have been rescheduled for a date not earlier than May 1. Courts may not accept filings for ejectment, schedule hearings, issue writs or warrants of ejectment until directed by subsequent order by the Chief Justice.
- Courts will continue to accept emergency filings, claim & Delivery actions, application for public sale and summons and complaints for small claims.
- Bond Hearing Court will reduce the number of hearings to two sessions; 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. only on Saturday and Sunday.
- **All contact information for Magistrate Court can be found on the last page of this news release.**

Probate Court

[Charleston County Probate Court](#) is working to assist Charleston County couples who are getting married within the next 30 days (and this will be extended if needed) during the pandemic. The online system should be live in the coming days. Our website will be the best source of updated information.

To apply please complete the on-line Marriage Application at:

<https://ccprobate.charlestoncounty.org/marriage-license.php>.

The cost is seventy dollars (\$70) by credit card plus a processing fee. The application page must be printed and signed in blue ink by the couple applying via FaceTime or Zoom with a staff member of the Probate Court as a witness at a scheduled appointment time scheduled by the Probate Court. Both Applicants will sign on their corresponding applicant lines with their social security numbers below.

Once signed, please email the application to the court. Your original signed application **must** be returned to the Probate Court at: 100 Broad Street, Suite 469, Charleston, SC 29401.

As mandated by South Carolina law, there is a twenty-four hour waiting period after the application is filed before the license is released. Once that period has elapsed, you will be emailed the Marriage License for you to print and use. **The license will not be released until the signed application is received.**

Following your wedding, you will be responsible for returning the signed copies labeled **PROBATE JUDGE** and **PROBATE JUDGE/DHEC COPY** to the Probate Court via mail or in person once the court reopens.

All applicants must present and provide a copy of one piece of identification. Identification may be one of the following:

- Valid driver's license
- Original birth certificate or a certified copy of the birth certificate
- Valid S.C. identification card issued by the S.C. Highway Department
- Current military identification card
- A current passport

Charleston County Legislative Delegation

The North Charleston office will be closed until further notice. Representatives will be available by phone during normal business hours. For contact information call: 843-740-5855.

County Council

The Charleston County Council meeting scheduled for March 26, 2020 has been postponed. A new date has yet to be determined.

All public community meetings scheduled for the week of March 23 have been postponed or moved to an online format. Those include:

- Zoning and Planning Civil Rights Grant Project Final Meeting scheduled March 28.
- Palmetto Commerce Parkway Phase 3 scheduled March 25.
- Main Road Corridor Segment A meeting scheduled March 31 has been moved to an online meeting that can be attended on the project website <https://www.mainroadcorridor.com/>.

The Charleston County Treasurer's Office, Auditor's Office, and Register of Deeds Office are closed, but will continue to assist citizens via phone and email. Online tax payments can be made here: <https://sc-charleston.publicaccessnow.com/>

Treasurer's Office Contact Information:

treasurer@charlestoncounty.org

843-958-4360

843-958-4370 (fax)

Auditor's Office Contact Information:

auditoroffice@charlestoncounty.org

843-958-4200

843-948-4222 (fax)

Live Chat available: Auditor.charlestoncounty.org

Register of Deeds Office – drop off location on the first floor of the O.T. Wallace Building 101 Meeting St.

843-958-4800

mgray@charlestoncounty.org

Alternative Early / Late Entry for Abstractors

- 7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. / 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Open to abstractors (list of abstractors must be provided to the security officers) Must be on the list and show proper ID to enter the building.
- A county employee must be present in the ROD office during the allotted time. (Not a ROD employee).
- All abstractors must “Wear Gloves” while in the office and they must wipe/clean there area or space after usage. Abstractors must provide their own gloves.

Clerk of Court

A drop box will be located in the lobby of the Charleston County Judicial Center for all non-emergency filings and the office will accept filings by mail. Emergency filings and payments may still be done in person.

For Family Court purposes, emergency filings include but are not limited to: DSS Emergency Protective Custody, Juvenile Detentions, Bench Warrants, and Emergency Petitions for Orders of Protection from Domestic Abuse. For questions, please call 843-958-5000 for Circuit Court or 843-958-4400 for Family Court. You may also email any questions to clerkofcourt@charlestoncounty.org.

Citizen Info Line: **843.746.3900**

Spanish Line: **843.746.3909**

SCDHEC Care Line: **1-855-472-3432** Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for questions about COVID-19

MUSC Health: Virtual Care 843-792-7000 or <http://campaigns.muschealth.org/virtual-care/index.html>

Roper St Francis Virtual Care: <http://rsfh.com/virtualcare>

Magistrate Court Contact Information

Description	Phone Number	Court Email
Bond Court	843-746-9822	bondcourt@charlestoncounty.org
City Small Claims	843-724-6719	citysmc@charlestoncounty.org
City Magistrate	843-724-6719	citymag@charlestoncounty.org
East Cooper	843-856-1205	mtpleasant@charlestoncounty.org
James Island	843-795-1140	jamesisland@charlestoncounty.org
Johns Island	843-559-1218	johnsisland@charlestoncounty.org
McClellanville	843-887-3334	mcclellanville@charlestoncounty.org
North Area 1	843-202-6610	northarea1@charlestoncounty.org
North Area 2	843-745-2215	northarea2@charlestoncounty.org
North Area 3	843-553-4003	northarea3@charlestoncounty.org
North Area Small Claims	843-202-6650	nareasmc@charlestoncounty.org
Preliminary Hearing	843-745-2390	prelim@charlestoncounty.org

Ravenel /Adams Run	843-889-8332	ravenel@charlestoncounty.org
West Ashley	843-766-6531	westashley@charlestoncounty.org

For information on Charleston County Government news and services, the public can:

- Visit our website: www.charlestoncounty.org



- Prepared by the Public Information Office -