

**CHESTERFIELD JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT
12TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

CONTINUANCE POLICY

The mission of the Chesterfield Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court is to provide timely justice for citizens without wasting the time and other resources of the Court, the litigants, and other case participants. For most case types and dockets, the entire Court looks with strong disfavor on motions or requests to continue court proceedings.

The Court will evaluate continuance requests on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the moving party or parties have presented the requisite good cause in support of the request.

As a guide to practitioners, the following will generally ***not*** be considered sufficient cause to grant a continuance:

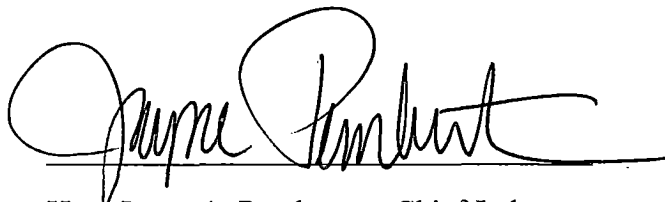
- Counsel or the parties agree to a continuance without prior judicial approval;
- The case has not previously been continued;
- Discovery has not been completed;
- The untimely hiring of counsel or the desire to substitute counsel;
- Unavailability of a witness for whom no subpoena request has been issued;
- A party or counsel is unprepared to try the case for reasons including, but not limited to, the party's failure to maintain necessary contact with counsel or vice versa;
- A police officer or other witness is either in training or is scheduled to be on vacation, unless the Court is advised of the conflict sufficiently in advance of the trial date to prevent an inconvenience to the attorneys, the parties, witnesses, and the Court.

The following ***will*** generally be considered sufficient cause to grant a continuance:

- Recent or sudden medical, mental health, or otherwise debilitating emergency (not elective medical care) involving a party, counsel, or material witness for whom a subpoena has been requested;
- A party did not receive proper notice of the setting of the trial date through no fault of that party or that party's counsel;
- Facts or circumstances arising or becoming apparent too late in the proceedings to be fully corrected and which, in the view of the Court, would likely cause undue hardship or miscarriage of justice if the trial is required to proceed as scheduled.

When any continuance request is granted, it shall be the moving party's responsibility to coordinate the rescheduling of the case with the Clerk's Office.

Entered: 8/10/17



Hon. Jayne A. Pemberton, Chief Judge