

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTIES OF HORRY AND)
GEORGETOWN)

FILED
HORRY COUNTY
2024 JAN 10 P 3:20

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

RENEE N. ELVIS
CLERK OF COURT
HORRY COUNTY, SC

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE PRIVATE BAR, PRO SE INDIVIDUALS, CLERK OF COURT OF HORRY COUNTY, CLERK OF COURT OF GEORGETOWN COUNTY

Rule 53(b) of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure grants the circuit court the authority to refer cases to the Master in Equity or to a Special Referee. The language of the rule states that "in an action where the parties consent, in a default case, or an action for foreclosure, some or all of the cases may be referred to a master or special referee by order of the circuit court or the clerk of court". Rule 53 (b) also states that "in all other actions, the circuit court may, upon application of any party or upon its own motion, direct a reference of some of all of the causes of action in a case".

It is not uncommon for conflicts to arise in cases referred to the Horry County Master in Equity or the Georgetown County Master in Equity (collectively hereinafter referred to as "Master in Equity") that necessitate judicial recusal. There are two offices of the Master in Equity in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in South Carolina. For this reason, it is hereby ordered that all cases remanded to the circuit court from a Master in Equity due to conflict or other disqualifying reasons, shall be referred to the other Master in Equity within the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Jurisdiction of remanding Master in Equity shall cease upon remand to the circuit court and shall be transferred to the receiving Master in Equity by way of sua sponte motion of the circuit court.

IT IS SO ORDERED:

Jaw
December 10, 2023
Conway, South Carolina

W H Seals
The Honorable William H. Seals, Jr.
Chief Administrative Judge
Court of Commons Pleas
Fifteenth Judicial Circuit