

STATE OF DELAWARE THE COURTS OF THE JUSTICES OF THE PEACE B20 NORTH FRENCH STREET. 1 1TH FLOOR WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801

WILLIAM F. RICHARDSON CHIEF MAGISTRATE TELEPHONE: (302) 577 - 6001

POLICY DIRECTIVE NO. 91-131

TO: ALL JUSTICES OF THE PEACE, STATE OF DELAWARE

ALL CLERKS OF THE COURT, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS

FROM: WILLIAM F. RICHARDSON

CHIEF MAGISTRATE

DATE: MAY 28, 1991

RE: CENTRALIZATION OF CIVIL CASES

This 28th day of May, 1991,

It Appearing:

- (1) That the Justices of the Peace Courts are now confronted with a severe loss of personnel due to the Early Retirement Option and the prioritization of vacant Justice of the Peace Court positions for elimination in the Judiciary's F.Y. 1992 budget;
- (2) That a broad restructuring of the processes, procedures, scheduling practices and caseload distribution is necessary in order to allow all of the current nineteen Justice of the Peace Courts to remain open in light of these personnel shortages;
- (3) That the entire Justice of the Peace Court system would be able to function more efficiently if all civil cases

were processed in those special civil courts that currently exist exclusively for that purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DIRECTED, [10 Del. C., §9202 (c)], effective June 3, 1991, at 8:00 AM:

- (A) That Justice of the Peace Courts 17 (Georgetown), 19 (Seaford) and 16 (Dover) shall be designated and utilized exclusively as the only civil courts for their respective counties;
- (B) That Justice of the Peace Courts 1 (Millsboro), 2 (Lewes), 5 (Milford), 6 (Harrington) and 8 (Smyrna) shall accept no new civil cases after midnight June 1, 1991; but shall complete all civil cases filed therein prior to that time;
- (C) That there be no change in the way civil cases are processed in New Castle County since this type of centralization was accomplished in that county on August 15, 1977;
- (D) That all Justice of the Peace Courts shall continue to make available, as is presently done, the proper forms necessary to file a civil case so that litigants may then either deliver in person or mail those forms with the appropriate filing fees to the proper civil court for processing and trial.

Chief Magistrate

WFR:jp

CC: The Honorable Andrew D. Christie
The Honorable William T. Allen
The Honorable Henry duPont Ridgely
The Honorable Robert H. Wahl
The Honorable Robert D. Thompson
The Honorable Alfred R. Fraczkowski
Keith Brady, Esq.
Michael J. Rich, Esq.
Thomas W. Nagle
Edward G. Pollard
Anna A. Lewis
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