

# The Supreme Court of South Carolina

Re: Establishment of Central Magistrate Court in Lexington County

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## ORDER

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It appearing that the establishment of a centralized magistrate court for the hearing of preliminary examinations, traffic, criminal, bond hearings, criminal domestic violence cases, and civil cases in Lexington County can be accomplished within the framework of the unified judicial system as an administrative matter, and

It further appearing that the establishment of a centralized magistrate court for the hearing of preliminary examinations, traffic, criminal, bond hearings, criminal domestic violence cases, and civil cases in Lexington County will provide greater access to parties, witnesses, law enforcement officers, victims advocates, and prosecutors, and

It further appearing that the establishment of a centralized magistrate court for the hearing of preliminary examinations, traffic, criminal, bond hearings, criminal domestic violence cases, and civil cases in Lexington County will provide economies of scale and preserve resources, and

The judges of the magistrate courts of South Carolina being a part of the uniform statewide judicial system and pursuant to the provisions of Article V, Section 4, South Carolina Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that terms of court for preliminary examinations, traffic, criminal, bond hearings, criminal domestic violence cases, and civil cases be scheduled in the Centralized Magistrate Court for Lexington County. Terms of court shall be scheduled by the

Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes of the Summary Courts in Lexington County and shall be presided over by magistrates designated by the Chief Summary Court Judge in Lexington County.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all preliminary examinations, traffic, criminal, bond hearings, criminal domestic violence cases, and civil cases shall be scheduled in the central court, provided, that the Chief Summary Court Judge in Lexington County may, upon a finding of good cause and timely written request by a party, order the transfer of any case to any Lexington County Magistrate, as required by law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the terms of the central court shall be held on the days of the week and at the times designated by the Chief Summary Court Judge in Lexington County.

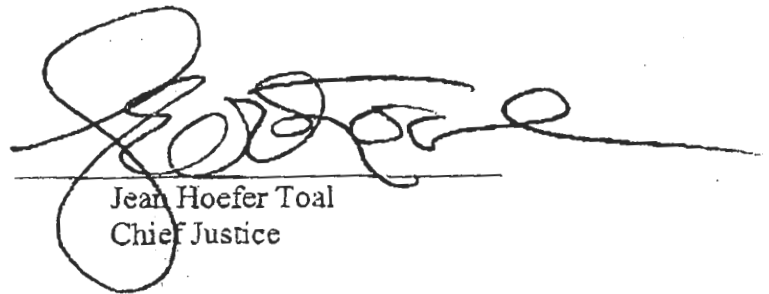
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes of the Magistrate Courts for Lexington County may coordinate with the magistrates of the county for the temporary transfer of personnel of the individual magistrate courts of Lexington County to the central courts established pursuant to this order. The temporary transfer of personnel shall be arranged so that the court schedule of the court to whom the personnel are regularly assigned shall not be interrupted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes of the Magistrate Courts for Lexington County shall supervise the Trial Court Administrator for Lexington County and other personnel that may be employed for the central courts established pursuant to this order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Chief Summary Court Judge in Lexington County shall be responsible for an accounting of all fines, fees, penalties, forfeitures and all other

monies collected in the Centralized Magistrate Court for Lexington County. All fees, fines, penalties and forfeitures imposed and collected in the central court must be forthwith turned over to the Treasurer of Lexington County. On the first Wednesday in each month or within ten days thereafter, the Chief Summary Court Judge shall make to the Auditor and Treasurer of Lexington County a full and accurate statement in writing of all monies collected in the Centralized Magistrate Court for Lexington County during the past month together with the title of each case in which a fine has been paid.

The authority conferred on the Chief Summary Court Judge in Lexington County by this Order shall become effective immediately and continue unless amended or revoked by Order of the Chief Justice.



Jean Hofer Toal  
Chief Justice

April 20, 2004  
Columbia, South Carolina