

**IN THE FOURTH CHANCERY DISTRICT
AMITE, FRANKLIN, PIKE AND WALTHALL COUNTIES, MISSISSIPPI**

**GENERAL ORDER DESIGNATING DAYS FOR RULE 81 RETURNS,
UNCONTESTED HEARING DAYS AND TRIAL TERMS FOR 2026;
SETTING FORTH PROCEDURES FOR ISSUING PROCESS ON
MATTERS GOVERNED BY MS RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE RULE 81
AND FOR SETTING MATTERS WITH THE COURT**

BE IT REMEMBERED that pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 9-5-3 (1972 & Supp.) this Court does hereby order, set and publish the official Court calendar for the calendar year **2026** as follows, to-wit:

The Secretary of State is directed to publish the following dates in its judicial calendar and directory for the year **2026** as the dates that process will be returnable to the Court on Rule 81 and other special statutory matters where return must be made to a date, time and place certain as well as the following designated trial terms, to-wit:

Return Dates and Trial Settings for **CHANCELLOR I-HALFORD** in all matters requiring that process be made returnable to a date, time and place certain (including matters governed by Miss. R. Civ. P. 81) shall be at 9:00 a.m. in the county seat of the County where the judge is presiding on such date.

Return Dates for **CHANCELLOR II-SMITH** in all matters requiring that process be made returnable to a date, time and place certain (including matters governed by Miss. R. Civ. P. 81) shall be at 10:30 a.m. in the county seat of Amite, Franklin and Walthall Counties and at 9:00 a.m. in the county seat of Pike County. Trial Settings shall be made returnable to 9:00 a.m. in the county seat of the County where the trial has been set.

**AMITE MOTION DAYS
AMITE CO. COURTHOUSE-LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI
CHANCELLOR I-HALFORD at 9:00 a.m.
CHANCELLOR II-SMITH at 10:30 a.m.**

January 9
February 6
March 6
April 2
May 8
June 5
July 2
August 7
September 4
October 9
November 6

December 4

FRANKLIN MOTION DAYS

FRANKLIN CO. COURTHOUSE-MEADVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

CHANCELLOR I-HALFORD at 9:00 a.m.

CHANCELLOR II-SMITH at 10:30 a.m.

January 6

February 3

March 3

March 31

May 5

June 2

June 30

August 4

September 1

October 6

November 3

December 1

WALTHALL MOTION DAYS

WALTHALL CO. COURTHOUSE-TYLERTOWN, MISSISSIPPI

CHANCELLOR I-HALFORD at 9:00 a.m.

CHANCELLOR II-SMITH at 10:30 a.m.

January 7

February 4

March 4

April 1

May 6

June 3

July 1

August 5

September 2

October 7

November 4

December 2

PIKE MOTION DAYS

PIKE CO. CHANCERY ANNEX-MAGNOLIA, MISSISSIPPI

FOR CHANCELLOR I-HALFORD ONLY AT 9:00 a.m.

January 12

February 9

March 16

April 6

May 11

June 8

July 20

August 6
September 8
October 8
November 9
December 7

PIKE MOTION DAYS

**PIKE CO. CHANCERY ANNEX-MAGNOLIA, MISSISSIPPI
FOR CHANCELLOR II-SMITH ONLY AT 9:00 a.m.**

January 5
February 2
March 2
March 30
May 4
June 1
June 29
August 3
August 31
October 5
November 2
November 30

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that **Trial Terms for CHANCELLOR I-HALFORD** shall be as follows, to-wit:

AMITE TERMS:

February 17-20 (1 week)
April 13-17 (1 week)
June 22-26 (1 week)
August 24-28 (1 week)
October 19-23 (1 week)

FRANKLIN TERMS:

January 20-23 (1 week)
May 26-29 (1 week)
July 13-17 (1 week)
September 14-18 (1 week)
November 16-20 (1 week)

PIKE TERMS:

January 12-16 (1 week)
February 9-13 (1 week)
March 16-20 (1 week)
April 6-10 (1 week)
May 11-15 (1 week)

June 8-12 (1 week)
July 20-24 (1 week)
September 8-11 (1 week)
November 9-13 (1 week)
December 7-11 (1 week)

WALTHALL TERMS:

March 23-27 (1 week)
May 18-22 (1 week)
August 10-14 (1 week)
October 12-16 (1 week)
December 14-18 (1 week)

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Trial Terms for CHANCELLOR II-SMITH shall be as follows, to-wit:

AMITE TERMS:

March 9-13 (1 week)
May 26-29 (1 week)
August 17-21 (1 week)
October 12-16 (1 week)
December 14-18 (1 week)

FRANKLIN TERMS:

January 12-16 (1 week)
April 13-17 (1 er-week)
July 20-24 (1 week)
November 9-13 (1 week)

PIKE TERMS:

January 20-23 (1 week)
February 17-20 (1 week)
March 23-27 (1 week)
May 18-22 (1 week)
June 22-26 (1 week)
July 13-17 (1 week)
August 10-14 (1 week)
September 21-25 (1 week)
October 19-23 (1 week)
November 16-20 (1 week)

WALTHALL TERMS:

February 23-27 (1 week)
April 6-10 (1 week)

June 8-12 (1 week)
September 8-11 (1 week)
December 7-11 (1 week)

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all Motion Days for **Chancellor I (HALFORD)** will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse of the County where indicated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Motion Days in Amite, Franklin and Walthall Counties for **Chancellor II (SMITH)** will begin at 10:30 a.m. Motion Days in Pike County for **Chancellor II (SMITH)** will begin at 9:00 a.m.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all Trial Days for both **Chancellor I (HALFORD)** and **Chancellor II (SMITH)** will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse of the County where indicated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all Motion Days are designated as Rule 81 Return Days and, pursuant to this General Order of the Court, the Chancery Clerk where an action is pending is authorized to issue Rule 81 process returnable to 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m., according to Chancellor assignment, on any Return Day in the county where the action is pending without special order of the Court. The issuance of any other Rule 81 process must be authorized by Fiat, or Special Order, issued by the Chancellor or the Court Administrator upon direction by the Chancellor.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the party issuing Rule 81 process, through counsel if represented, shall immediately upon the issuance of such process notify the Chancellor's Court Administrator in writing of the issuance so that the matter can be placed on the Docket for call. The notification may be delivered by first-class mail, fax or email and must include the style of the case, the title of the pleading being brought on for consideration and the time, date and place to which the process is returnable. The notification shall further set forth whether the matter is set for call only or whether a Temporary Hearing or other hearing requiring less than thirty minutes is being requested on the return date. **Failure to ensure delivery of the Motion Docket Sheet to the Court Administrator at least seven days prior to the return date may prevent the matter from being called, thereby losing process.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that counsel for any party wishing to have a non-Rule 81 matter requiring less than thirty minutes taken up for consideration on a Motion Day, or a party, if unrepresented, shall contact the Court Administrator for available dates. The requesting counsel or party shall confer with the opposing side regarding availability and shall notify all parties and the Court Administrator in writing of the date selected so that the matter can be placed on the Docket for hearing. The Notice of Hearing shall be served as provided by the Rules of Court and must include the style of the case, the title of the pleading being brought on for consideration and the time, date

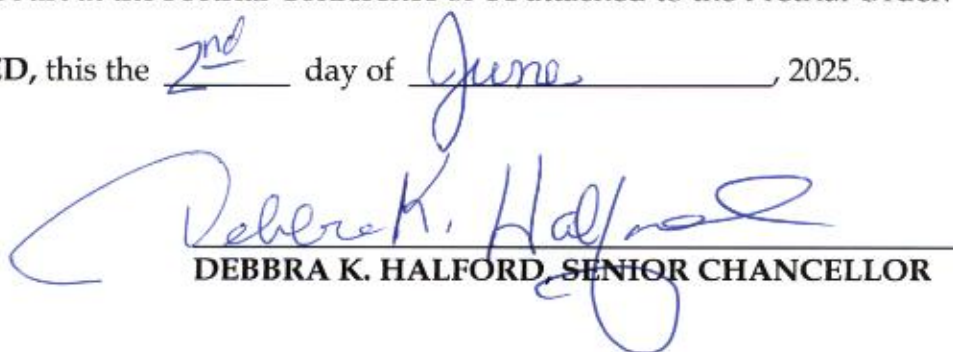
and place at which the matter will be presented. Failure to properly serve the Notice of Hearing will prevent the Court Administrator from placing the matter on the Docket and assignment for hearing or conference.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in domestic actions involving any financial issues including support and/or custody, each party shall file with the Clerk of Court on or before the return day, a Financial Declaration completed in conformity with Miss. Chancery Court Rule 8.05, together with the attachments required, specifically including the party's most recently filed income tax returns; verification of prior year's income if a return has not been filed; verification of year-to-date income; and employment history.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that matters placed on the Motion Docket for hearing will be disposed of by hearing or agreement on the designated Motion Day, unless all parties agree that the matter be continued, the action is dismissed, or for good cause shown. If insufficient time is available to dispose of all matters requiring hearing, those matters not resolved will be reset on an expedited basis, in accordance with the Court's calendar. Each party shall be allowed a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes total for that party's direct examination, cross-examination and rebuttal examination. Matters requiring more than one-half hour of hearing time must be set for hearing on a trial day, through the Court Administrator.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pretrial conferences will be conducted by the Court in all matters set for trial, unless specifically excused by the Court. Unless otherwise ordered, the Pretrial Conference will be conducted on the Motion Day of the month that trial is set, in the County where the action is pending except that the Pretrial Conferences in Judge Halford's Pike County causes will be conducted at the Franklin County Courthouse on the Franklin County Motion Day. If the Court grants a request for excusal from the Pretrial Conference, Counsel shall submit a Joint Pretrial Order to the Court, no later than the time scheduled for the Pretrial Conference. All trial exhibits must be delivered to the Court at the Pretrial Conference or be attached to the Pretrial Order.

SO ORDERED, this the 2nd day of June, 2025.


DEBBRA K. HALFORD, SENIOR CHANCELLOR