

IN RE: OFFSITE JURY SELECTION * IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC * FOR WORCESTER COUNTY
ORDER # 2020-6 * STATE OF MARYLAND
*

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF COURT

WHEREAS, due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and consistent with guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control, an emergency exists; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 emergency continues to require comprehensive measures to protect the health and safety of Maryland residents and Judiciary personnel; and

WHEREAS, Chief Judge Barbera previously suspended jury trials in light of the emergency, but has ordered the resumption of same as of October 5, 2020. Given the size and configuration of the Worcester County Courthouse, jury assembly, voir dire and jury selection presents a particular challenge for this Court; and

WHEREAS, in order to conduct jury trials in a safe, secure and efficient manner that is consistent with applicable health safety regulations, orders and guidelines, it is reasonably necessary to secure offsite premises, for use by this Court, to conduct jury assembly, voir dire and jury selection; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of this Court, Worcester County has entered into an agreement with the Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Company for the use of its meeting hall, by this Court, to conduct jury assembly and selection. Said agreement is incorporated herein by reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is this 25th day of September, 2020, hereby

2020 SEP 28 AM 10: 23

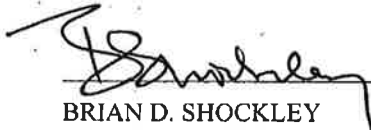
SUSAN F. PRASIECKI
CLERK, CT. CT.
WOR. CO.

Return to: Mike Howard, Court Administrator

ORDERED, that any portion of the Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Company, located at 4718 Snow Hill Road, Snow Hill Maryland, shall be deemed premises of the Worcester County Circuit Court, while in use by the Court for jury assembly and selection, (and any other use reasonably related thereto), and, thereby subject to any and all laws, orders, rules and regulations pertaining to courthouse premises, including, but not limited to, operations, liability, security and health safety. In short, when in use by this Court, the subject premises are in all legal and administrative respects the same as the courthouse itself.

ORDERED, that the premises shall include the adjacent parking area and any portion of the property that is utilized by the Court in relation to jury assembly and jury selection.

ORDERED, that this order is effective immediately and shall remain in full force and effect for so long as the Court uses the premises as contemplated hereby.


BRIAN D. SHOCKLEY
Administrative Judge

2020 Sept. 29 The foregoing certificate
filed and forthwith recorded in Court Proceedings
S.R.B. No. 34 Folios 66 and 67.

Susan Probst Clerk