



Seventh Judicial Circuit Of Maryland

CIRCUIT COURT FOR CALVERT COUNTY

175 MAIN STREET

PRINCE FREDERICK, MARYLAND 20678

MARK S. CHANDLEE
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

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MEMORANDUM

March 8, 2021

To: All Attorneys Entered in Cases Scheduled for Jury Trials Beginning April 26, 2021 in the Circuit Court for Calvert County, Maryland.

CC: Kathy Smith, Clerk of the Court; Office of the State's Attorney for Calvert County, Maryland; Office of the Public Defender; Calvert County Bar Association

RE: Information regarding the Resumption of Jury Trials Beginning on April 26, 2021 in the Circuit Court for Calvert County, Maryland.

Greetings,

Pursuant to Chief Judge Barbera's Seventh Amended Administrative Order Clarifying the Statewide Suspension of Jury Trials and Maintaining Grand Juries, jury trials are scheduled to resume April 26, 2021. In preparation for the resumption of jury trials, the Circuit Court has drafted this memorandum to address anticipated questions and explain the procedure for the resumption of jury trials. Please be advised that this Memorandum contains important information for your review. The Court greatly appreciates your attention and request that you read the entire Memorandum.

Presently, multiple cases are scheduled for jury trials on the same day. As a result, the court shall conduct a "docket call" to commence at 8:15 a.m. on the day of trial. Counsel and all parties must be in attendance (incarcerated individuals shall appear via PolyCom). The Court will triage the cases to determine which cases shall go forward. Incarcerated Defendants and cases with fast approaching "Hicks" dates will take priority. As a result of space restrictions, only two jury trials can proceed at the same time, one criminal and one civil. Cases that the Court will not be able to reach will be sent directly to the Assignment Office to schedule a new trial date.

Prior to all jury trials presently scheduled, the chambers of the assigned trial judge will be scheduling a telephone conference call to discuss the status of each case and to potentially resolve the cases prior to trial if possible. This **should** drastically reduce any day of trial continuance request or pleas/settlements.

As a reminder, actual jury selection shall occur at a remote location due to the COVID-19 space restrictions of the courthouse. Selection shall take place promptly after the "docket call" on the day of trial at the Calvert County Fair Grounds. All attorneys are required to appear in person for jury selection. This location provides ample space to social distance to keep the parties and jury pool safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Calvert County Sheriff's Office will be providing security as well as COVID-19 screening prior to entry into the building.

Also included with this Memorandum are Administrative Orders for the Circuit Court for Calvert County regarding continued restricted access to the Courthouse, wearing face coverings or masks in the Courthouse, and prohibition against the unauthorized recording of remote proceedings. In addition, Chief Judge Barbera's Seventh Administrative Order Clarifying COVID-19 Measures in the Courthouses and Judicial Branches Facilities and Seventh Amended Administrative Order Clarifying the Statewide Suspension of Jury Trials and Maintaining Grand Juries will also be attached.

The Court asks that each attorney please share this information with their respective client(s). Additionally, each attorney should instruct their client(s) to direct any questions they may have to counsel first, and, if counsel is unable to answer it, counsel can, in turn, ask the Court. **It is VERY IMPORTANT for counsel to communicate this information to their clients.**

The Court also will post this Memorandum on the Circuit Court for Calvert County website and provide it to the Calvert County Bar Association for distribution to its members. Any communication or question regarding this Memorandum should be directed to Judge Chandlee's Law Clerk, Elizabeth Haibach, at elizabeth.haibach@mdcourts.gov. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Chandlee
Administrative Judge
Circuit Court for Calvert County, Maryland