PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. THIS BUILDING IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS; HOWEVER, WICOMICO COUNTY, DISTRICT COURT IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH JUNE 5, 2020, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Only the following case types will be heard, either in-person or remotely, beginning March 16, 2020:

In the District Court:

    (A) Bail Review/Bench Warrants
    (B) Emergency Evaluation Petitions
    (C) Quarantine and Isolation violations
    (D) Body Attachments

District Court Commissioners shall handle the following matters:

    (A) New extreme risk protective order petitions
    (B) New domestic violence protective petitions
    (C) New peace order petitions
    (D) Initial appearances
    (E) Application statement of charges
    (F) Acceptance of bail bonds
    (G) Bench warrants satisfactions

(g) For all other emergency matters including those listed below, the administrative judge or his or her designee shall review the petition, determine whether it must be heard in person, or can be heard with remote electronic participation, or can be scheduled after the emergency period has ended, or can be resolved without a hearing:

(1) shelter care hearings and/or related adjudications

(2) emergency delinquency hearings

(3) emergency Habeas Corpus petitions

(4) emergency issues in guardianship matters

(5) domestic violence protective orders

(6) appeals from peace orders

7) family law emergencies

(8) temporary restraining orders

(9) criminal competency matters

(10) motions regarding:

(A) extreme risk protective orders

(B) domestic violence protective orders

(C) peace orders

(11) contempt hearings related to peace or protective orders

(12) matters involving locally incarcerated defendants;
(h) This Administrative Order does not affect the courts' consideration or resolution of matters that can be addressed without a proceeding that involves testimony or argument; and

(i) Search warrants must be addressed on a 24-hour, 7-day per week basis. Search warrants shall be handled electronically to the greatest extent possible. The administrative judges of the Circuit Courts and the District Court each shall designate a judge who is responsible to cover search warrant duty for a specified timeframe; and

(j) All other matters scheduled to be heard beginning March 17, 2020, through June 5, 2020, are hereby postponed, pending further order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; and

(k) Pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-1003(a)(7), statutory and rules deadlines related to the adjudication of criminal and juvenile matters shall be suspended and shall be extended by the number of days that the courts are closed by order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, but no fewer than twenty-one (21) business days after the first day that the courts have been reopened; and

(l) Essential court personnel shall be available to the public by telephone (410-713-3500) between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. MDEC continues to be available for electronic filing and is required to be used for all MDEC counties. For pleadings not required to be filed electronically, filings will be received by mail and may be received via drop boxes installed at local courthouses; and

(m) Other than as set forth in this Administrative Order, deadlines established by Maryland statutes or rules remain in effect; and

(n) For the duration of this emergency, the date of filing will be considered the date a mailed filing has been postmarked or, if filed via a drop box, the previous business day, unless there is a timestamp on the drop box; and

(o) The Administrative Order on Statewide Closing of the Courts to the Public Due to the COVID-19 Emergency filed on March 13, 2020, is rescinded effective, May 4, 2020; and

(p) To the extent that this Administrative Order conflicts with extant Administrative Orders, local administrative orders or policies, this Administrative Order shall prevail; and

(q) This Administrative Order will be revised as circumstances warrant.
/s/ Mary Ellen Barbera
Mary Ellen Barbera
Chief Judge
Court of Appeals of Maryland

Please check back frequently for updates or revisions.