

Beginning Monday, March 15, the Judiciary moves into Phase IV. The District Court is transitioning to Phase IV over the next several weeks. The Administrative Orders allow us to continue to hear cases remotely and we will continue doing so. We have equipped the courtrooms with webcams in order to enhance the remote hearings.

Both courthouses are open, and the clerks' offices are open to the public without an appointment. The offices will still be limited in the number of people allowed in the office at a time.

Pursuant to the Orders, the District Court may conduct Phase IV hearings in person or remotely. An individual may request to participate remotely either by video or telephone. Please use the following form if you want to request to participate remotely:
<https://mdcourts.gov/sites/default/files/court-forms/ccdc110.pdf>.

Large claims civil will continue to be remote. Please remember that the Court and opposing party/counsel must receive exhibits THREE business days prior to trial. Small Claims cases will be heard on Wednesdays in Rockville. They may be in person, remote, or hybrid. For them to be remote parties must file a request as referred to above. Protective Orders and Peace Order hearings will continue as they have been. Temporary hearings (without prior interims) must be in person. Final hearings may be remote. The zoom information for the hearings will be on the orders considering the quick turnaround time for these cases.

For at least April and May, all Failure to Pay Rent Cases will be heard in the Silver Spring Courthouse every day. The tenant holding over, breach of lease, and wrongful detainer cases will be heard on Wednesday afternoons in Rockville.

The district court will be hearing most criminal and traffic matters in Rockville. If a defendant is incarcerated, the first trial date will be a status date and the defendant will not be transported. The case may be resolved in any way other than a trial. If the case is to be a trial, it will be postponed for one week and the defendant will be transported for trial. The criminal domestic violence dockets will be heard on Thursdays and Fridays in Rockville and will continue as they did in Phase II. The traffic dockets will be set in Rockville on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays and one docket in Silver Spring on Fridays. The morning dockets will be the incarcerable cases and the afternoon dockets will be the minor traffic dockets. All criminal trials will be in person.

We will also have Municipal Infractions cases set on Tuesdays and will begin setting in the camera tickets as well. There will be a civil motions docket on Thursday mornings in Rockville and Friday mornings in Silver Spring. The motions docket will be remote.

All masking and social distancing requirements remain in effect. Thank you for everyone's continued cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri D. Koch Administrative Judge, District Court
District 6