

# **By Order of the Court of Appeals, the District Court Shall Enter a Phased Return to Court Operations<sup>1</sup>**

## **ANY PERSON who seeks entrance into a Courthouse shall be:**

- (1) subject to COVID-19 screening questions;
- (2) subject to non-contact temperature checks;
- (3) REQUIRED to wear face masks or coverings;
- (4) REQUIRED to maintain social distancing.

**To ensure the safety of all, please be advised that the Courthouses will be operating at a limited capacity.**

- (1) You may be asked to wait outside;
- (2) Seating inside is limited;
- (3) Only those essential to the hearing should appear.

We must adhere to CDC guidelines including social distancing, and we reserve the right to clear any area and/or limit entry if we reach capacity. **Any person that fails to comply, has symptoms of COVID, or has had direct contact with someone who is COVID positive will be denied access.**

## **The District Court Clerk's Office will continue to accept and process ALL filings.**

Those seeking to file a petition for a protective order, peace order, extreme risk protective order, or emergency evaluation may access the Courthouses and the Clerk's Office counters during business hours. Commissioner's will accept petitions for interim orders after hours and on the weekends. **All other Clerk's Office business will be conducted at the counters however, appointments are preferred** (but not required) to ensure safety and efficiency.

**Filings will continue to be accepted at the locked boxes** at the Commissioner's Entrance in Upper Marlboro, and at the main entrance in Hyattsville. The boxes are emptied regularly from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. A time/date stamp is available. Payments for citations may be made online.

## **PHASE 4 OPERATIONS:**

- Some temporary and all final protective orders, peace orders, extreme risk protective orders, and emergency evaluations will be heard in person. Hearings on temporary orders where the interim was granted by a Commissioner will be heard remotely. Parties will be notified and provided with details.
- Remote hearings for bail reviews, bail reconsiderations, most preliminary hearings for incarcerated individuals, and fugitive matters. Parties will be notified and provided with details.
- Mental Health Court and Adult Drug Court will continue to conduct remote hearings.
- Search warrants as eWarrants are preferred.
- All other matters will be scheduled for either in-person or remote hearings. All parties will be notified.

Please call the Clerk's Office in **Upper Marlboro at 301-298-4000** or in **Hyattsville at 301-298-4200** for additional information. You can also find information and forms at [www.mdcourts.gov](http://www.mdcourts.gov).

**Lisa A. Hall Johnson, Administrative Judge, Fifth District Court of Maryland**

<sup>1</sup> Phases are described in the Court of Appeals of Maryland Amended Administrative Order On the Progressive Resumption of Full Function of Judiciary Operations Previously Restricted Due to the COVID-19 Emergency, dated June 3, 2020. Orders are available at <https://mdcourts.gov/coronavirusorders>.