

By Order of the Court of Appeals, the District Court Shall Enter a Phased Return to Court Operations¹

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 and social distancing, and we reserve the right to clear the Clerk's Offices and hallways, and 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 counters. **All other Clerk's Office business will be conducted at the counter, 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 MATTERS:

- 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.
- Criminal trial dockets, violations of probation, emergency motions, and jailable motor vehicle matters will be scheduled and parties will be specifically notified.
- Mental Health Court and Adult Drug Court will continue to conduct remote hearings.
- **We encourage eWarrants for search warrants.**
- Tenant holding over, breach of lease, wrongful detainer matters, rent escrow, failure to pay rent, and associated warrants of restitution will be scheduled.
- Civil matters will be scheduled for either in person or remote hearings. Parties will be notified.

The Commissioner's Office will no longer accept petitions for interim orders during the business day.

Any person seeking a petition may file at the Clerk's Office during business hours. Commissioner's will accept petitions for interim orders after hours and on the weekends ONLY.

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.

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

¹ 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>.