

Virginia:

IN THE CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS
OF THE 28TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the President of the United States and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia have issued certain emergency declarations; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention has issued guidance including mitigation strategies for communities to reduce or eliminate large gatherings of individuals to avoid the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, the Circuit and District Courts of the 28th Judicial Circuit and District are authorized under Virginia Code §§ 17.1-207(A)(3) and 16.1-69.35(5) to determine when the courts shall be open for the transaction of business and may authorize the Clerk’s Offices to close when the conditions prevailing would constitute a threat to the health and safety of court personnel and/or the general public.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Clerk’s Offices of the Circuit and District Courts shall remain open subject to the limitations set forth in this Order. All in-person court proceedings in the 28th Judicial Circuit and District are HEREBY CONTINUED effective March 17, 2020, and will remain continued until further order of the courts subject to the exceptions set forth below. Exceptions to this Order include the following:

- Proceedings necessary to protect constitutional rights of incarcerated criminal defendants and detained juveniles, including arraignments, bond-related matters, plea agreements, and detention hearings;

- Proceedings related to relief from abuse, including but not limited to preliminary protective orders and protective orders;
- Proceedings related to emergency *pendente lite* child custody matters;
- Proceedings related to Department of Social Services emergency matters involving child protection, abuse or neglect and/or removal and any related foster care proceedings;
- Proceedings related to petitions for temporary injunctive relief;
- Proceedings related to emergency mental health orders including but not limited involuntary admissions to inpatient facilities or mandatory outpatient treatment;
- Proceedings related to emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable persons including the appointment of guardians or conservators;
- Proceedings related to unlawful detainers;
- Any other proceedings filed that are required to be heard within a statutorily mandated time period, which shall be so heard; and
- Proceedings directly related to the COVID-19 public health emergency including but not limited to any isolation orders.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no incarcerated person shall be transported to any court without a written order of the court in which that person's matter is pending.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that courthouse security of the respective courthouses of the 28th Circuit are hereby authorized to deny admission into the courthouses to any person exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.

The Clerks of these courts shall post a copy of this Order and record a copy of the same.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of these courts.

ENTER this 16th day of March, 2020.



Sage B. Johnson, Chief Judge

28th Judicial Circuit Court



Eric R. Thiessen, Chief Judge

28th General District Court



Joseph B. Lyle, Chief Judge

28th Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court

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**WASHINGTON COUNTY
J & DR COURT**