

## Chesapeake Circuit Court COVID-19 Operating Schedule

In addition to the attached Supreme Court of Virginia Order declaring a Judicial Emergency in response to COVID-19 and cancelling of all cases other than those exempted in the Order, the Chesapeake Circuit Court will implement the following additional procedures:

Requests for emergency hearing of cases during the 21 day period shall be made by telecommunication to the Circuit Court Judges' chambers via email ([twhite@vacourts.gov](mailto:twhite@vacourts.gov)) or fax (757-382-3080). The Presiding Judge will determine which cases are emergencies and allow them to be placed on the docket before any notice or setting of hearing shall be filed in the Clerk's office. Defendants in custody will appear via videoconference for all pre-trial hearings allowed by statute. Attorneys will no longer be able to meet with inmates in courthouse lockup areas.

All criminal and civil jury trials scheduled through May 4, 2020 will be continued. Priority will be given so that these cases can be re-scheduled as quickly as possible. Counsel in all criminal jury trials should contact the assigned Assistant Commonwealth Attorney to obtain a new trial date.

Chesapeake Sheriff's Weekender program is suspended until the weekend of May 9, 2020. The Sheriff will not transport inmates from the jail to the courthouse unless authorized by a judge.

Effective March 17, 2020, the Magistrate's office is to set arraignment hearings for bonded defendant's for May 6, 2020, and everyday thereafter (i.e. defendant's bonded and released on March 18, 2020 should be set for arraignment on May 7, 2020).

Effective March 17, 2020, contact with the Circuit Court Judges' chambers is preferred to be by telecommunication. All in person requests should be made at the counter of our Jury Assembly Room located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the courthouse.

As a reminder, cases that have been continued during this 21-day period and have not been scheduled for specific date by order, will be continued pursuant to Local Rule 14.