

Chesapeake General District Court COVID-19 Operating Schedule

The Supreme Court of Virginia has issued an Order declaring a Judicial Emergency in response to COVID-19 effective Monday, March 16 to Monday, April 6. All cases, with the exception of emergency matters, including but not limited to arraignments, bail reviews, and protective order cases, are continued. In addition, the Chesapeake General District Court will implement the following additional procedures:

Requests for a hearing in an emergency matter shall be made by motion to the General District Court Clerk's office. The Presiding Judge will determine which cases are emergencies and allow them to be placed on the docket.

Defendants in custody will appear via videoconference for all pre-trial hearings allowed by statute. With limited exceptions, attorneys will no longer be able to meet with inmates in courthouse lockup areas.

The Court will consider all bond motions telephonically for incarcerated defendants on their previously scheduled court date.

The Court has implemented a liberal continuance policy.

All criminal, traffic and civil cases scheduled through April 6, 2020 will be continued as follows:

- All traffic cases will be continued to the officer's committed date in June or later.
- All criminal and traffic cases involving the Commonwealth's Attorney's office will be continued to a control date - April 8, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. for setting by the Commonwealth's Attorney and Defense Counsel.
- All private citizen cases will be continued for trial for approximately 60 days at 9:02 a.m.
- Bonded arraignments will be set for May 6, 2020 or later.
- Video bond hearings for traffic and criminal cases will be set at 10:00 a.m. in the criminal courtroom.
- All civil cases, including contested cases, will be continued to mid-May or later.

Effective March 17, 2020, the Magistrate's office will set arraignment hearings for bond defendant's for May 6, 2020, and each successive court date thereafter, i.e., defendants bonded and released on March 18, 2020 should be set for May 7, 2020.

All proceedings will be conducted at the counsel tables. Please do not approach the bench.

Individuals who have retained counsel and counsel has provided a letter of representation, with dates, are not required to appear for arraignment.

If you are sick, please do not come to court. Call the court, or inform a Deputy of the illness.

The 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.

Court personnel have updated the Case Management System with new court dates. Please visit www.courts.state.va.us to determine your new court date.

To the extent possible, the court and clerk's office shall remain operational and provide essential services while balancing the health and safety needs of court visitors and personnel.