

GENERAL ORDER REGARDING CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19): HAMPTON CIRCUIT COURT, HAMPTON GENERAL DISTRICT COURT, AND HAMPTON JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

This Order is being issued in response to the recent Declaration of a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia by Governor Northam. This state of emergency became effective March 12, 2020, and is to remain in full force and in effect until June 10, 2020, unless sooner amended or rescinded by further executive order.

On Sunday March 15, 2020, Governor Northam announced a statewide ban on all events over 100 people. In light of the foregoing and Chief Justice Lemons having received today, March 16, 2020, a request from the Governor for a declaration of a judicial emergency in all district and circuit courts of the Commonwealth of Virginia, pursuant to Va. Code § 17.1-330, this Order declaring a judicial emergency is hereby issued for all district and circuit courts of the Commonwealth to protect the health and safety of court employees, litigants, judges, and the general public. This Order shall be in effect from today, Monday, March 16, to Monday, April 6, 2020, and it is hereby ORDERED that NON-ESSENTIAL, NON-EMERGENCY court proceedings in all circuit and district courts be and hereby are SUSPENDED and all deadlines are hereby tolled and extended, pursuant to Va. Code § 17.1-330(D), for a period of twenty-one (21) days.

Courtroom attendance shall be limited to attorneys, parties, and necessary witnesses and members of the press in any matters that cannot be continued. Should any attorneys, parties or necessary witnesses be ill, continuances should be requested in advance of the court date.

Individuals shall not enter any courthouse building if they have:

- a. visited China, Iran, South Korea, any European countries, or any other high-risk countries identified by the CDC in the previous 14 days;
- b. traveled domestically within the United States where COVID-19 has sustained widespread community transmission;
- c. been asked to quarantine, isolate, or self-monitor by any doctor, hospital, or health agency;
- d. been diagnosed with, or have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with, COVID-19;
- e. a fever, cough, or shortness of breath; or
- f. resided with or been in close contact with any person in the above-mentioned categories.

Individuals attempting to enter a courthouse in violation of these protocols may be denied entrance by a bailiff or court security officer, and may be directed to contact the clerk's office by

telephone or other remote means to inform the clerk of their business before the court so as to receive further instruction regarding alternate arrangements for court access.

HAMPTON CIRCUIT COURT

The following applies to Hampton Circuit Court:

1. Jury trials will continue according to schedule, but a liberal continuance policy will be in effect to accommodate the health needs of individuals whose presence is necessary for the trial and who are experiencing effects of the virus or otherwise quarantined. Jurors who are summoned to appear should advise the Court before reporting if they are experiencing fever or other symptoms of illness or if they have within fourteen days returned from international travel from the countries identified by the Center for Disease Control as experiencing elevated risk for coronavirus. See www.cdc.gov/travel.
2. All litigants with scheduled hearings on any pretrial motion are encouraged to schedule such motion to be conducted by telephone. The Clerk has been directed to accommodate all such requests and to provide information about the conference line that should be used for the call. The proponent of any requested order is responsible for submitting that order to the Court in advance of the telephonic hearing.
3. Effective March 18, all pre-trial hearings for felony matters involving in-custody inmates shall be conducted with the defendant appearing from the correctional facility by videoconference.
4. Any lawyer or pro se litigant experiencing fever or symptoms of illness, or who has within fourteen days returned from international travel from countries identified by the Center for Disease Control as experiencing elevated risk for coronavirus, must report this fact to the Court before entering the building. Violation is punishable by contempt of Court.

HAMPTON GENERAL DISTRICT COURT

The following applies to Hampton General District Court:

1. Bond hearings and arraignments will be conducted as scheduled by videoconference.
2. Absent an agreement or for good cause shown, Trials and/or Preliminary Hearings for individuals in custody will proceed as scheduled.
3. Preliminary Protective Order Petitions will be conducted at the Clerk's Office.
4. Extensions of Protective Orders and requests for Protective Orders will be conducted in Courtroom "A".
5. All traffic and civil cases scheduled between March 17, 2020 through April 6, 2020, will be CONTINUED and other cases as determined by the court.
6. Those individuals impacted by the continuances will be notified of new dates by mail.
7. Impacted individuals are encouraged to contact the Clerk's Office, Commonwealth's Attorney Office, City's Attorney Office, Public Defenders' Office, and/or Private Counsel's Office for information about their new court date.

HAMPTON JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

The following applies to Hampton Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court:

1. All custody, visitation, support and traffic related cases in all courtrooms scheduled between March 17, 2020 and April 6, 2020 will be continued. The Clerk's Office will notify all affected parties of new court dates.
2. Foster Care/Child Dependency matters and Petitions for Protective Orders will proceed as scheduled.
3. Criminal and Delinquency matters will be continued until after April 6, 2020 with the following exceptions:
 - a. Arraignments, bond hearings, and detention hearings for defendants who are in custody. These hearings will be held utilizing video connections with the Hampton City Jail and Detention Center.
 - b. Trials and/or Preliminary Hearings for detained juveniles will proceed as scheduled, unless continued by agreement or for good cause shown.
 - c. Trials and/or Preliminary Hearings for incarcerated adults will proceed as scheduled, unless continued by agreement or for good cause shown.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

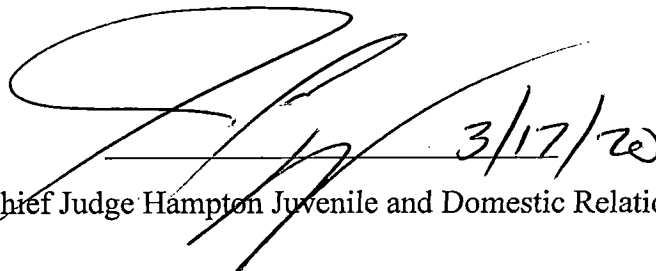
ENTERED: March 17, 2020



Bonnie L. Jones, Chief Judge Hampton Circuit Court



Corry N. Smith, Chief Judge Hampton General District Court



Jay E. Dugger, Chief Judge Hampton Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court