

Announcement from the Madison County Combined District Court Concerning the Judicial Emergency

Pursuant to the **Order Declaring a Judicial Emergency in Response to COVID-19 Emergency**, issued March 16, 2020, by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, a copy of which is attached and is available at www.vacourts.gov, the Madison County Combined District Court has suspended all non-essential, non-emergency court proceedings and operations. At this time the court will only hear those cases that have been determined essential for the continued orderly administration of justice (i.e, including but not limited to foster care, juvenile detention, protective orders, bond hearings). Non-essential matters will be continued beyond April 6, 2020, pursuant to the Supreme Court Order.

Dates for continuances will be available from the clerk's office as we progress through this emergency. You may contact the clerk's office at (540) 948-4657.

Further, all detention hearings, arraignments and bond hearings for incarcerated defendants will be conducted by video.

For those cases that remain on the court's docket, the court will have a liberal continuance policy for anyone who is ill or cannot find daycare for young children. If anyone feels ill or has been in contact with someone who is ill, please contact the Clerk's Office prior to coming to court.

Only the parties to a case, the attorneys and guardians ad litem and necessary witnesses should attend court. Others should stay home.

Attorneys and GALs should please contact as many clients, witnesses, etc. as possible and let them know they do not need to come to court unless they are part of the essential cases listed above. We will do our best to help get in touch with those we have phone numbers for. We would rather they receive more than one call than none at all.