

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Supreme Court of Virginia has declared a Judicial Emergency as of March 16, 2020. In accordance with the same, the Newport News Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court has implemented the following, effective immediately.

1. All civil (custody/visitation & child/spousal support), traffic and criminal matters are continued, until further notice, subject to a defendant's right to a speedy trial, with the exception of emergency matters, including but not limited to: quarantine or isolation matters, arraignments, bail hearings, protective order cases and civil commitment proceedings. Child dependency (Foster Care) cases will proceed unless you are notified otherwise.
2. Judges may exercise their discretion with regard to proceeding with cases where the defendant is incarcerated.
3. Courtroom attendance is limited to attorneys, parties and necessary witnesses and members of the press in any matter that cannot be continued.
4. All individuals with legitimate court business who are ill, caring for someone who is ill, or is otherwise in a high-risk category, as defined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), are advised to call the local clerk of court or appropriate court personnel to request an appropriate accommodation.
5. People who fall into the following categories are advised not to enter the 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.
 - g. Individuals attempting to enter the court 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.
6. Filing for new civil cases is temporarily suspended.
7. We will continue to accept appeals.

Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court - COVID-19 EMERGENCY

8. Payment for fines and costs can be made by telephone or on the website. Do not come to the Court to make payments
9. The Court will have a liberal continuance policy for all remaining cases for those who feel ill. If you have a case or other court related business and are in a *high-risk* group, we encourage you to reschedule.
10. Please contact the Clerk's Office by phone (757-926-3603) for continuances prior to coming to court. (PLEASE NOTE THAT CALL VOLUMES ARE HIGH. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.)
11. This notice will be updated as needed unless further statewide action is implemented.