

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY

IN RE: JUDICIAL EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 EMERGENCY

In accordance with that certain Supreme Court of Virginia order of March 16, 2020, it is hereby ADJUDGED, ORDERED and DECREED as follows:

Beginning March 16, 2020 to and through April 6, 2020 all NON-ESSENTIAL, NON-EMERGENCY court proceedings in all circuit and district courts are hereby SUSPENDED and all deadlines are hereby tolled and extended, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 17.1-330(D), for a period of twenty-one (21) days.

Furthermore, the following measures shall be in effect:

1. Continue all civil, traffic and criminal matters, including jury trials, 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 reviews, protective order cases, emergency child custody or protection cases, and civil commitment hearings. Judges may exercise their discretion with regard to proceeding with ongoing jury trials, and in cases where the defendant is incarcerated.
2. Continue all ceremonies, such as juvenile licensing ceremonies.
3. Limit courtroom attendance to attorneys, parties, and necessary witnesses and members of the press in any matters that cannot be continued.
4. Issue summonses in lieu of a *capias* for failure to appear.
5. For jury trials that cannot be continued, excuse or postpone jury service for jurors who are ill, caring for someone who is ill, or in a high-risk category as defined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).
6. Suspend new juror orientations.
7. Require attorneys to use e-Filing if available.
8. Require 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), to call the local clerk of court or other appropriate court personnel to request an appropriate accommodation.

**YOU ARE NOT TO ENTER THIS BUILDING IF YOU 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 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.

ENTER this 16th day of March, 2020,

  
Herbert M. Hewitt, Judge

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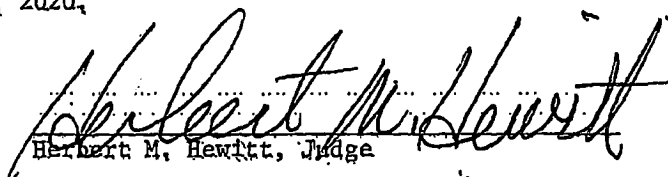
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