

Virginia:

IN THE BUCHANAN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 29TH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT

WHEREAS, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia has issued certain emergency declarations; and

WHEREAS, the Circuit and District Courts of the 29th Judicial Circuit are authorized under Virginia Code §§ 17.1-207(A)(3) and 16.1-69.35(5) to determine when the courts shall be open for the transaction of business and may authorize the Clerk's Offices to close when the conditions prevailing would constitute a threat to the health and safety of court personnel and/or the general public.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Clerk's Office of the Buchanan County Circuit Court shall remain open subject to the limitations set forth in this Order. All in-person court proceedings in the Buchanan County Circuit Court are HEREBY CONTINUED effective March 17, 2020, and will remain continued until further order of the courts subject to the exceptions set forth below. Exceptions to this Order include the following:

- Proceedings necessary to protect constitutional rights of incarcerated criminal defendants and detained juveniles, including arraignments, bond-related matters, plea agreements, and detention hearings;
- Proceedings related to relief from abuse, including but not limited to preliminary protective orders and protective orders;
- Proceedings related to emergency *pendite lite* child custody matters;

- Proceedings related to Department of Social Services emergency matters involving child protection, abuse or neglect and/or removal and any related foster care proceedings;
- Proceedings related to petitions for temporary injunctive relief;
- Proceedings related to emergency mental health orders including but not limited to involuntary admissions to inpatient facilities or mandatory outpatient treatment;
- Proceedings related to emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable persons including the appointment of guardians or conservators; and
- Proceedings directly related to the COVID-19 public health emergency including but not limited to any isolation orders.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no incarcerated person shall be transported to any Buchanan County Court without a written order of that court in which that person's matter is pending.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that courthouse security of the Buchanan County Circuit Court is hereby authorized to deny admission into the courthouse to any person exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.

The Clerk of this court shall post a copy of this Order and record a copy of the same. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of this court.

ENTER this 17th day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Johnson', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Patrick R. Johnson
Buchanan County Circuit Court