

**IN THE LEXINGTON/ROCKBRIDGE JUVENILE & DOMESTIC RELATIONS  
DISTRICT COURT**

TO: PARTIES APPEARING IN THE JDR DISTRICT COURTS  
DATE: MARCH 16, 2020  
FROM: JUDGE LAURA L. DASCHER, PRESIDING JUDGE  
RE: COVID-19 PROCEDURES AND PRECAUTIONS

ORDER

It appearing to the Court that the President of the United States and the Governor of Virginia have issued certain emergency declarations concerning the health and safety of our citizens,

And it further appearing to the Court that the Federal Center of Disease Control has issued certain guidance including mitigation strategies for communities to reduce or eliminate larger gatherings of individuals to avoid the spread of COVID-19,

And it further appearing that the Supreme Court of Virginia on March 16, 2020 declared a Judicial Emergency in response of COVID-19,

And if further appearing to the Court that it is authorized under Va. Code Section 16.1-69.35(5) to determine when the Courts shall be open for transaction of business when "under prevailing conditions, it would constitute a threat to the health and safety of the Clerk's Office personnel and the general public,"

And the Court having all met and consulted with various stakeholders in the Court's operations and there being no objection to the entry of this Order.

It is ORDERED that there shall be limited access to the Lexington/Rockbridge Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court from March 16, 2020 until April 6, 2020.

All cases involving Child Support, Civil Custody and Visitation, Adult Criminal Cases where the Defendant is NOT INCARCERATED, and Juvenile Delinquency (Criminal) Cases where the Juvenile is not held in Detention are hereby CONTINUED. Witnesses subpoenaed for these matters are hereby EXCUSED from appearing.

All currently scheduled court dates for any incarcerated Defendant or Juvenile in detention will go forward as scheduled and are not included within this order of continuance, subject, however, to a written motion filed in any such case of an incarcerated Defendant. Foster care cases, being necessary for the protection of

children, will go forward as scheduled as well. The Court will also conduct limited hearings including video bond motions, petitions for Family Abuse Protective Order, petitions for Abuse and Neglect, video arraignments of incarcerated persons charged with violations of the criminal Code of the Commonwealth, and when warranted, emergency motions filed during that period. Whenever possible, these hearing will be conducted by video or telephone.

Furthermore, Clerks will be in the office during regular hours and still reachable by phone and electronic forms of communications. Interest on all cost and fines will be tolled. Payment can be made at this time online, or by mail.

ENTER:

/s/ Laura L. Dascher

Judge Laura L. Dascher, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court