

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS FOR THE COUNTY OF CHESTERFIELD  
AND THE CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS

In Re: STATEWIDE DECLARED JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

CM20-40

ORDER

On 16 March 2020, Chief Justice declared a judicial emergency pursuant to Va. Code Ann. §17-1,330. A copy of that declaration is attached hereto.

Pursuant to that declaration, and the Court's inherent authority to act in such matters, and the Court finding good cause therefore, the Court **ORDERS:**

**All civil, traffic and criminal hearings** are continued, 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.

The listed emergency matters will be heard during the emergency **when the Court is open and operational**. Use of video conferencing and telephonic testimony will be utilized to the extent permitted by law and

consistent with the particulars of the case. Agreed continuance orders, will, in most instances be favorably considered. Electronic filings, pursuant to Va. Code Ann. §32.1-48.013:1 are encouraged.

All scheduled hearings continued pursuant to this Order during the judicial emergency, are hereby continued to the next term day of Court, to be set. In the event the judicial emergency continues past that date, those matters will be continued again to the next term day thereafter, without further Court order.

For purposes of speedy trial in criminal matters, the Court finds that the current state of emergency and the causes therefore constitute both a natural disaster and an act of God.

Upon the request of an incarcerated Defendant or his counsel, the Court will consider requests to proceed to trial during the judicial emergency, in the sole discretion of the presiding judge.

The Court's Order of 15 March 2020, continuing all jury cases, is superseded by this Order.

The Clerk of the Chesterfield Circuit Court and the Clerk of the Colonial Heights Circuit Court, respectively, are directed to promulgate and to publish this order to the public, file a copy of this order with the case papers in the affected matters, and provide a copy to the Supreme Court.

ENTER MAR 16 2020



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Edward A. Robbins, Jr.  
Chief Judge  
12<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

A COPY, TESTE:  
STACY L. STAFFORD, CLERK  
COLONIAL HEIGHTS CIRCUIT COURT

BY: Wood  
Deputy Clerk