



MESSAGE FROM THE COURT OF APPEALS OF VIRGINIA

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, our World and our Commonwealth have had to rapidly address this public health emergency. Personal and professional activities have been cancelled or postponed, and all of us monitor the situation closely as restrictions and warnings evolve. The Court thanks you for your patience and understanding as it works to ensure the health and well-being of all who shoulder the obligation to conduct the critical business of the justice system.

We know that attorneys' practices have been significantly disrupted by the public health emergency and that litigants are concerned about their cases proceeding in this Court. Please rest assured that the Court is making every effort to permit filings and proceed with our dockets at the same time we comply with emergency orders, directives, and advice from those charged with protecting public health.

In early March, the Court took a variety of precautions relating to social distancing, screening, providing sanitizers, and ensuring the well-being of all of those involved with matters before it. As the situation progressed, the Court determined that additional precautions were necessary in order to ensure public health while continuing Court operations and access to justice for all. On March 18, 2020 the Court issued an Order, together with a Public Advisory regarding operational procedures, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those documents are available on this website.

All those involved in the justice system have been extremely professional during these challenging times. The Court applauds the extraordinary work of our staff and those who have assisted in advancing our system to allow for maximizing electronic filings and setting up teleconference panel sessions. Attorneys and pro se litigants alike have adapted and are engaging in electronic filing of documents in this Court and proceeding with teleconference oral arguments. We truly appreciate the resilience of the legal community.

As all of us navigate through these uncertain times, it is important to stay informed and vigilant. We are all in this together. With everyone's help the Court will continue to function efficiently and effectively during this challenging time. Please continue to monitor this website for further updates.

The Court wishes you all good health as we continue to work through this public health event.

March 24, 2020