

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE

IN RE: ACCESS TO COURTHOUSE)

Case No. CM20000106-00

**ORDER REGULATING ACCESS TO COURTHOUSE
DURING CORONAVIRUS / COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

CAME THIS DAY the Hon. Steve M. Draper, Sheriff of the City of Martinsville, and petitioned this Court to exercise its authority pursuant to Code of Virginia § 15.2-1800(F) and § 18.2-283.1 to regulate the use of the Martinsville Courthouse, 55 West Church Street, Martinsville, Virginia, specifically to order that procedures be implemented restricting public access to the front entrance of the building through the current security checkpoint during the existing Coronavirus / COVID-19 pandemic.

Good cause having been shown, the petition is GRANTED.

In granting this petition, the Court makes the following findings of fact:

1. The Martinsville Courthouse was constructed in 1968. It was also constructed for concurrent use as the City Municipal Building. Since 1968 it has borne next to the front entrance signage stating "Municipal Building" and "City Courts."
2. The Courthouse consists of three floors; Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, chambers and offices are on the basement floor; General District Court, chambers and offices are on the first floor; and the Circuit Court, chambers and offices are on the third floor. City municipal offices are also located on each of the three floors.
3. The building has central stairwells and elevators, with axial corridors and restrooms open to the general public. There is no practicably reasonable way to distinguish whether anyone seeking entry to the building is doing so for municipal or judicial purposes.
4. The Court therefore finds that the entire building is a courthouse, coincidentally also a municipal building, and that there is no reasonable basis upon which to separate the two functions.



5. The building has three primary entrances; at present, public access is restricted to the main entrance with a security checkpoint, fronting West Church Street.
6. It is not reasonable to apply restrictions upon public access while Court is in session and allow it to be unrestricted when Court is not in session. Such a policy would allow the potential risk of contamination and pose a risk to public health.

Therefore, with respect to the Martinsville City Courthouse, being the entire building located at 55 West Church Street, Martinsville Virginia 24112, and pursuant to Code of Virginia § 15.2-1800 and § 18.2-283.1, the following requirements are ORDERED to be applied to any person accessing the Courthouse through the front security entrance, without exception for their reason for entering the building:

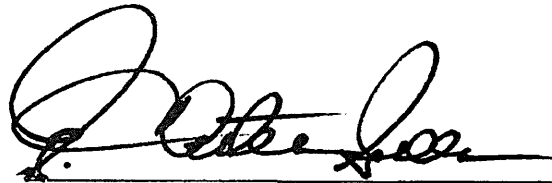
- A. Public access to the Courthouse is restricted to the main entrance fronting West Church Street, where all persons seeking entry shall pass through the existing security checkpoint.
- B. All persons shall be subject to a body temperature scan and any such person with a temperature exceeding 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit shall not be admitted.
- C. All persons shall be required to complete the questionnaire appended to this Order, and shall be admitted only upon review and approval of the deputy manning the security checkpoint.
- D. All persons admitted to the building shall be required to use hand sanitizer, if available, before passing out of the security checkpoint area.
- E. All persons admitted to the building shall confine their visit to the specific office the purpose of their visit requires.
- F. To the greatest extent possible, all persons admitted to the building shall practice "social distancing," and shall refrain from physical contact with other persons.
- G. Any person sneezing or coughing shall cover their nose and mouth when doing so.
- H. All persons are required to wash their hand for at least 20 seconds, using soap and warm water, after using the restroom.
- I. Any person not complying with these requirements shall be immediately removed from the building and shall not be readmitted.



These requirements shall be in effect at all times, without regard to whether Court is actually in session. These requirements shall be amended or rescinded only by written order of this Court.

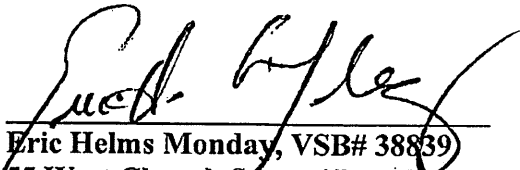
The Clerk is directed to post this order at each entrance to the Courthouse.

ENTERED this 16th day of March, 2020.



G. Carter Greer
Circuit Court Judge

I ask for this:




Eric Helms Monday, VSB# 38839
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Martinsville, Virginia 24112
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City Attorney for Martinsville
for Petitioner, Hon. Sheriff Steve M. Draper

TWENTY-FIRST
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF VIRGINIA

IN TESTIMONY that the foregoing is a true
Copy taken from the records of said Court
I, Ashby R. Pritchett, Clerk thereof set my hand
and affix the Seal of said Court

This the 16th day of March 2020

 Clerk
Circuit Court, City of Martinsville, VA