

VIRGINIA:

IN THE JUVENILE & DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT OF RAPPAHANNOCK  
COUNTY

IN RE: CASE SCHEDULING in light of COVID-19 Pandemic

ORDER

It appearing to the Court that on March 16, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia declared a Judicial Emergency and ordered that from Monday, March 16, 2020 to Monday, April 6, 2020, all non-essential, non-emergency court proceedings in all circuit and district courts suspended, and that on March 27, 2020 the Justices of the Supreme Court extended the declaration of judicial emergency through April 26, 2020, the Court ORDERS as follows:

1. All civil cases currently set on the first return dockets through April 26, 2020, shall be removed from the court's docket and will be rescheduled. The Clerk's Office will notify counsel of record and the parties when the case has been rescheduled.
2. All civil trials currently set on the contested dockets through April 26, 2020, shall be removed from the court's docket and will be rescheduled. The Clerk's Office will notify counsel of record and the parties when the case has been rescheduled.
3. Emergency child custody and emergency child protection cases may be set on the court's docket through the Clerk's Office.
4. For incarcerated adults, all arraignments and bond hearings shall remain on the docket without change.
5. For incarcerated adults, all criminal hearings and trials may be placed on the docket by the Clerk after consultation with the Court.
6. For non-incarcerated adults, all criminal hearings and trials currently set on the

docket through April 26, 2020, are removed from the docket. The clerk's office will notify counsel of record and the parties when the case has been rescheduled.

7. Juvenile detention hearings shall remain on the docket without change. Juvenile detention review hearings shall remain on the docket without change, except that the court will use video and teleconferencing for attorney and participants whenever possible.
8. For juveniles held in detention, all delinquency hearings and trials may be placed on the docket by the Clerk after consultation with the Court.
9. A liberal continuance policy is in place for all hearings that remain on the docket. Continuance requests may be submitted to the court by phone, email or fax. The party sending the email or fax is responsible for confirming that the transmission is received by the Clerk's Office. The email or fax will be processed, and the original document does NOT need to be subsequently filed.
10. All matters that the Court hears pursuant to this order will be conducted by two-way electronic audio-visual communication, whenever possible. If two-way electronic audio-visual communication is not available, matters will be conducted by telephone whenever possible. Necessary courtroom attendance shall be limited to attorneys, parties, necessary witnesses and members of the press (for open hearings).
11. Individuals shall not enter the building if they have:
  - a. Visited China, Iran, South Korea, any European countries, or any other high-risk countries identified by the CDC;
  - b. Travelled domestically within the United States where COVID-19 has sustained widespread community transmission;

- c. Been asked to self-quarantine, isolate, or self-monitoring by any doctor, hospital, or health agency;
- d. Been diagnosed with, or have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with, COVID-19;
- e. Experienced a fever, cough, or shortness of breath; or
- f. Resided with or been within close contact with any person in the above-mentioned categories.

12. Individuals attempting to enter the building in violation of these protocols may be denied entrance by a court security officer and may be directed to contact the Clerk's Office by telephone to inform the Clerk of their business before the court so as to receive further instruction regarding alternate arrangements for court access.

13. Within the courthouse, individuals and groups shall not congregate and social distancing shall be required, including inside the courtroom.

14. A liberal policy of accepting documents for court filings by fax or email is in place. The party sending the email or fax is responsible for confirming that the transmission is received by the Clerk's Office. The email or fax will be processed, and the original document does NOT need to be subsequently filed.

15. Protective Order hearings shall remain on the docket without change, unless the parties agree to continue the matter. No protective order hearing may be continued by agreement until appropriate arrangements for service of process have been made.

This Order shall expire on April 26, 2020, unless extended.

Entered this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
Melissa N. Cupp, Judge