



**Arlington Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court**  
**17TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

GEORGE D. VAROUTSOS  
CHIEF JUDGE

ROBIN L. ROBB  
JUDGE

RONIKKA K. LARTEY  
CLERK

Arlington County Justice Center  
1425 North Courthouse Road, 4th Floor  
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 925, Arlington, Virginia 22216  
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March 31, 2020

**REVISED POLICIES OF THE ARLINGTON COUNTY AND CITY OF FALLS CHURCH  
JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURTS  
COVID-19 PLAN**

The Arlington County and City of Falls Church Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts (the "Court") continue to monitor the outbreak of COVID-19 and continue to take into consideration actions taken by federal, state, and local authorities.<sup>1</sup>

Accordingly, the Court enacts the following revised policies and procedures, which are effective immediately and continue through April 26, 2020. These procedures supersede and replace those procedures issued on March 15, 2020, March 17, 2020 and March 20, 2020.

These procedures may be further modified or extended as circumstances warrant and will be posted on the county website, through the Arlington County Bar Association and through the Virginia Judicial System website ([www.courts.state.va.us](http://www.courts.state.va.us)).

**Abuse and Neglect, Child Protective Orders and Termination of Parental Rights Cases**

Actions involving these proceedings are considered in the exception of matters that do not require continuance and will proceed on the docket as follows:

1. Uncontested or review hearings may be conducted by audio/video conferencing. Orders will be circulated electronically and must be submitted for entry on the same date as the hearing.
2. Contested matters remain on the docket as scheduled.

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<sup>1</sup> See Executive Orders, 51, 53 and 55 Commonwealth of Virginia, Office of the Governor. See also the Virginia Supreme Court Order entered on March 16, 2020 Declaring a Judicial Emergency due to COVID-19 Emergency and the Virginia Supreme Court March 27, 2020 Order Extending the Judicial Emergency in Response to COVID-19 Emergency.

**Civil Cases (Not otherwise set out in this procedure statement):**

1. All civil proceedings scheduled from March 17 through April 24, 2020 are hereby continued and will be set for status as follows:

<i>Courtroom</i>	<i>New Date and Time</i>
4A	April 28, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
4B	April 28, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

2. Litigants and counsel are encouraged to contact the Clerk's office to obtain a mutually agreeable date for trial and to submit an agreed order. Only those matters with an agreed date, approved by the Court, are exempt from appearing at the status hearing.

**Criminal Cases:**

1. Arraignments and Bond Motions:
  - a. In- custody arraignments and docketed bond motions will be conducted via video for both adults and juveniles when possible. This may necessitate these matters being heard on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> floor of the Arlington County Courthouse. Location of the proceeding will be provided on the court date.
  - b. Out-of-custody adult and juvenile arraignments will be continued to the following date and time:

<i>Courtroom</i>	<i>New Date and Time</i>
4A	April 29, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
4B	April 29, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

2. Remanding to the custody of the Sheriff:

When a person is remanded in court to the custody of the Sheriff, the detainee will be asked appropriate questions to assist the Sheriff.
3. Delayed Reporting and Weekend Confinement:

Delayed reporting and weekend confinement obligations, which are currently in place, will be suspended and defendants are instructed to **NOT** report to the jail. These cases will be docketed on May 4, 2020 date at 9:00 a.m. for entry of a new order imposing delayed or weekend confinement obligations. Defendant's appearance on May 4, 2020 is mandatory so that the Defendant can be apprised of the new reporting obligations.
4. Criminal Trials and Preliminary hearings for adults and juveniles:
  - a. Out of Custody: These matters will be continued for status as follows:

<i>Courtroom</i>	<i>New Date and Time</i>
4A	April 29, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
4B	April 29, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Counsel are encouraged to contact the Clerk's office to obtain a mutually agreeable date for trial and to submit an agreed order. Only those matters with an agreed date, approved by the Court, are exempt from appearing at the status hearing.

- b. In Custody: These matters will remain on the date currently scheduled for status. The detainee will appear by video.

**Division of Child Support Enforcement Cases:**

Commencing on March 17, 2020 through April 30, 2020, all cases in which the Division of Child Support Enforcement is involved will be rescheduled for status or for entry of agreed upon orders as follows:

<i>Courtroom</i>	<i>Day of the Week Originally Scheduled</i>	<i>New Date and Time</i>
4A	Tuesday	May 5, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.
4B	Tuesday	May 5, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
4A	Thursday	May 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
4B	Thursday	May 7, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

**Support Matters which do not involve the Division of Child Support Enforcement:**

All other support matters currently scheduled through April 30, 2020 are hereby continued and will be rescheduled for status as follows:

<i>Courtroom</i>	<i>New Date and Time</i>
4A	May 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
4B	May 12, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

**Driver's License Ceremony:**

The driver's license ceremony currently scheduled for April 1, 2020 which was moved to April 22, 2020 is hereby cancelled. All further driver's license ceremonies are hereby suspended until further notice.

**Fare Evasion/Traffic Cases:**

All fare evasion and traffic cases scheduled for adjudication will be removed from the docket and will be rescheduled to the officer's available date after April 30, 2020. Matters set for ex parte closure or dismissal will remain on the Court's docket.

**Protective Orders:**

All Petitions for Preliminary Protective Orders will proceed on the docket as normal and without changes. At a full hearing on the Petition, the Court will have a liberal continuance policy. Should a continuance be granted another Preliminary Protective Order may be entered pending final adjudication.

**Emergency Motions:**

Emergency motions, for cases in which relief is necessary to prevent imminent and substantial physical or psychological harm to a child, will be heard as usual. Emergency motions must state, with particularity, the factual basis for claiming that relief must be granted on an emergency basis. Each such motion will be reviewed by a judge before it is docketed.

**Continuance Policy**

Requests for a continuance of any matter that remains on the docket shall be made by written motion and will be granted for good cause.

**Court Personnel:**

Any Court personnel who have symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, or have been exposed to the coronavirus shall not report to work but shall promptly report their symptoms to their supervisor.

**Counsel and Litigants:**

Any party, counsel, or witness who has symptoms such as a fever, cough, or shortness of breath, or has been exposed to the coronavirus are not to appear in Court and the Clerk's Office is to be notified by phone at (703) 228-4495.

**Hearing Attendance:**

Only necessary persons (e.g. parties, their counsel and witnesses) shall be permitted in courtrooms during hearings. All other persons should stay away from the courthouse.