

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY

In Re: COVID-19 CIRCUIT COURT AND CLERK'S OFFICE OPERATIONS AUTHORIZATION

Pursuant to the Fourth Order Extending Declaration of Judicial Emergency in Response to COVID-19 Emergency entered by the Supreme Court of Virginia on May 6, 2020, the Court ORDERS as follows:

The provisions of the Fourth Order Extended Declaration of Judicial Emergency are hereby incorporated herein.

Effective immediately all policies put in place for the Spotsylvania Circuit Court and Clerks office during the Judicial Emergency shall be extended through June 7, 2020, except as otherwise modified herein. Accordingly, all in-court hearings are continued, including jury trials, bench trials and civil and criminal motions. All civil and criminal and civil jury trials are suspended and shall be continued.

Deadlines imposed by the Speedy Trial Act, Va. Code § 19.2-243 are tolled during the ongoing Period of Judicial Emergency (March 16, 2020 through June 7, 2020).

Criminal matters such as bond hearings which may be conducted by two-way electronic video and audio communication system that meets the standards set forth in Virginia Code 19.2-3.1 video will be heard as they have been during the Judicial Emergency.

Upon agreement of all the parties, attorneys and witnesses, the Court, at its discretion, may hear non-emergency matters by two-way electronic audio-visual communications system using a secure communication platform such as Polycom or WebEx, or by telephone. Requests to participate in this manner shall be coordinated through chambers.

Effective May 18, 2020, this court may here in -person non-emergency matters if it is determined that it is safe to do so in order to minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19 from in-person court proceedings. Requests to participate in this manner shall be coordinated through chambers.

Upon agreement of all the parties, the Court, at its discretion may consider and render decisions on the pleadings without appearance or oral argument in civil cases. Requests for rulings on the pleadings shall be coordinated through chambers.

The Clerk's office shall remain closed to the public but shall remain accessible during regular business hours according to the procedures established by the Clerk and this Court since the entry of the Court's order of March 17, 2020.

All social distancing and other virus safeguards implemented by this court remain in effect.

Entered this 7 of May, 2020

Ricardo Rigual, Judge

