

**VIRGINIA:**

**IN THE COMBINED DISTRICT COURTS FOR ALLEGHANY,  
BATH AND HIGHLAND COUNTIES**

**ORDER**

It appearing to the Courts that the President of the United States and the Governor of Virginia have issued certain emergency declarations concerning the health and safety of our citizens,

And it further appearing to the Courts that the Federal Centers for Disease Control has issued certain guidance including mitigation strategies for communities to reduce or eliminate large gatherings of individuals to avoid the spread of COVID-19,

And, it further appearing that the Supreme Court of Virginia on March 16, 2020 declared a Judicial Emergency in response to COVID-19,

And it further appearing to the Courts that they are authorized under Va. Code Section 16.1-69.35(5) to determine when the Courts shall be open for transaction of business when “under prevailing conditions, [it] would constitute a threat to the health and safety of the Clerk’s Office personnel and the general public,”

And the Courts having all met and consulted with various stakeholders in the Courts' operations and there being no objection to the entry of this Order,

It is therefore **ORDERED** that there shall be limited access to the District Courts from March 16, 2020 until April 6, 2020.

In the **Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts**, all cases involving Child Support, Civil Custody and Visitation, Adult Criminal Cases where the Defendant is NOT INCARCERATED, and Juvenile Delinquency (Criminal) Cases where the Juvenile is not held in Detention are hereby **CONTINUED**. Witnesses subpoenaed for these matters are hereby **EXCUSED** from appearing.

All currently scheduled court dates for any incarcerated Defendant or Juvenile in detention will go forward as scheduled and are not included within this order of continuance, subject, however, to a written motion filed in any such case involving an incarcerated Defendant. The Courts will also conduct limited hearings including bond motions, petitions for Family Abuse Protective Orders, petitions for Abuse and Neglect, video arraignments of incarcerated persons charged with violations of the criminal Code of the Commonwealth, and when warranted, emergency motions filed during that period. Whenever possible, these hearings will be conducted by video or telephone.

In the **General District Courts**, all but the following cases are continued:  
Protective Order Hearings, arraignments of incarcerated Defendants, all criminal cases in which the Defendant is incarcerated, emergency motions, and bond hearings.

Furthermore, and until further notice, each District Court Clerk's Office shall be open for public access from 8:30am until 11:00am and 1:00pm until 3:00pm. Clerks will be in the office during regular hours and still reachable by phone and electronic forms of communication.

ENTERED THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2020:

/s/ Laura L. Dascher

Judge Laura L. Dascher, Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

/s/ Christopher B. Russell

Judge Christopher B. Russell, General District Court