



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

WILLIAM H. CLEAVELAND
CHIEF JUDGE

RUPEN R. SHAH
PRESIDING JUDGE

CHRISTOPHER BILLIAS
JUDGE

CHRISTOPHER B. RUSSELL
JUDGE

TWENTY-FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Augusta County General District Court

6 E. Johnson Street, 2nd Floor

Staunton, Virginia 24401

540/245-5300 (PHONE) 540/245-5365 (FAX)

www.vacourts.gov

CHRISTY D. HOSTETTER
CLERK

ORDER

Considering the fourth-order of the Supreme Court of Virginia in accordance with the Virginia Code Section 17.1-330(D) dated May 6, 2020, extending the judicial emergency through June 7th and its modifications outlined in that order, the Court is also extending its previous order dated April 23, 2020, from May 18, 2020, till June 7th, 2020, and is modifying the order with the following provisions:

In the phased opening between May 18, 2020, through June 7, 2020, the Court will be hearing the following cases:

- (1) All 8:30 am Advisements will be in person.
- (2) Misdemeanor pleas &/or agreements beginning at 9:30 am till noon (in-person cases will be set ½ an hour apart and will have to be set by the Commonwealth's Attorney's office with the Clerk's office)
- (3) Felony prelim stipulations, waivers, and hearings from 1:00 pm (in-person cases will be set ½ an hour apart and will be set by the Commonwealth's Attorney's office with the Clerk's office)
- (4) All Bond hearing and advisements at 3:00 pm.
- (5) All Protective order hearings at 3:30 pm. (EPO/PPO/PO)

Fourth Friday and three Mondays during this time will be available for setting the above class of cases with the Clerk's office, as those days are available for the docket.

Also, to reduce the number of people that enter the courthouse, we ask that you not bring family members and/or friends that are not involved in your court proceeding. **Only the people with summons or those who have a case will be permitted in the court building.**

The civil cases will not be accepted by the Court during May 18, 2020 through June 7, 2020. Traffic cases, if set from May 18, 2020, through June 7, 2020, will be continued and the Clerk shall notify the parties of new date. People are also encouraged to check the Court website for the new date. Those who want to just pay the traffic ticket are encouraged to use the online payment option or "pay by phone" by calling the Clerk's office.

Effective immediately and by the Court Order until further Order of the Court, anyone that comes to the Courthouse displaying signs of sickness such as coughing, sneezing, fever, shortness of breath, or appear to be visibly sick will not be allowed to enter. They will be asked their name and reason for entry into the courthouse. If they have a case that day and are showing any of the signs that were mentioned above, their name will be taken, and they will be sent a notice in the mail or summons as to when their case will be heard.

It is further ordered that the Sheriff is required to prohibit a person from entering the Court building, if that person has:

1. traveled internationally in the last 14 days;
2. been directed to quarantine, isolate, or self-monitor;
3. been diagnosed with, or have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
4. experienced a fever, cough, or shortness of breath;
5. resided with or been in close contact with any person in the above-mentioned categories.


The court and security personnel shall direct such individuals to contact the clerk's office by telephone or other remote means to inform the clerk of their business before the court so they may receive further instruction regarding alternate arrangements for court access.

Furthermore, the Sheriff's deputy may ask that everyone who enters the courthouse to use the hand sanitizer located at the front entrance. **People entering the building will be required to cover their mouth and nose area with a face covering/mask.**

Allow yourself plenty of time to get to the courthouse and gain entry.

While we are opening gradually, please be patient as we do our part in preventing the spread of the virus of COVID-19. The clerk is hereby instructed to circulate this order to the Bar Association, Commonwealth's Attorney's offices, and through the website of the Court.

Date: 5/8/20



Judge