

ORDER

March 12, 2020 the Virginia Supreme Court entered an "Order Declaring Judicial Emergency in response to COVID-19 Emergency". This Order was extended several times and has now been extended to June 7, 2020.

Pursuant to that Order and the Federal and State declaration of emergency, it is ORDERED:

- 1) All civil and criminal jury trials, are hereby cancelled through June 7, 2020. All other cases are suspended subject to the following exceptions:
  - proceedings necessary to protect the constitutional rights of criminal defendants, including bond related matters and plea agreements for incarcerated individuals;
  - proceedings related to abuse, including but not limited to orders of protection;
  - proceedings related to emergency child custody orders;
  - proceedings related to petitions for temporary injunctive relief;
  - proceeding related to emergency mental health orders;
  - proceedings related to emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable persons;
  - proceedings directly related to the COVID-19 public health emergency
  - other non-emergency exceptions as approved by a Judge of this Court
- 2) The Clerk's office will be open on a limited basis beginning May 18, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays by appointment only. Personnel will be available to respond to telephone inquiries and to process electronic filings, if available. The land records room will be open on a limited basis by appointment only.
- 3) Any permitted in court proceedings are limited to attorneys, parties, necessary witnesses and court personnel, as determined by the trial judge.
- 4) Throughout the suspension period there shall be a liberal continuance policy;
- 5) Anyone who is ill or believed to have been exposed to COVID-19 virus should remain home and contact the clerk's office by telephone or email.

Judges are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that core constitutional functions and rights are protected. Additionally, court clerks are charged with ensuring ~~that court functions~~ continue. The Court will be utilizing available technologies to ensure these responsibilities are fulfilled to the best of our ability.

This Order may be shortened, modified or extended as circumstances dictate.

Entered this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020

  
SARAH L. DENEKE, JUDGE