

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Nelson General District Court will start having regular hearings on May 20, 2020. Please note the following:

- Only parties and witnesses will be allowed in the courtroom and the number of persons allowed in the courtroom will be limited.
- People who meet the following criteria will not be allowed in the courthouse if within the last 14 days they have:
 - Traveled internationally
 - Been directed to quarantine, self-isolate, or self-monitor
 - Been diagnosed with or have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19
 - Experienced a fever, cough, or shortness of breath
 - Resided with or been in close contact with any person in the above-mentioned categories
- If you wish to file a civil pleading, contact our Clerk's Office first to obtain a court date and time. All civil court is now being set to allow social distancing in the courtroom.
- If you wish to have your civil case mediated, please contact the Clerk's Office to find out how.
- If you are filing an Unlawful Detainer, please see the Notice concerning the "Cares" Act.
- Our court will start accepting Suggestion for Summons in Garnishment on May 18, 2020.
- Our court will start issuing Writs of Possession in Unlawful Detainer cases on May 18, 2020.
- If you have an advisement in a traffic or criminal case set on a Wednesday and you wish to avoid the crowd, you may come to our office Monday through Friday from 8:30am – 3:30pm prior to the date given and be advised.
- Address: 54 Courthouse Square, P.O. Box 514, Lovingston, VA 22949
Telephone: 434-263-7040 Fax: 434-263-7033
Email: nelsongd@vacourts.gov

- Traffic/Criminal Cases: If you are not disputing the charge, you do not need to appear in court on the trial date. The Judge can try you in your absence. You can check the courts website at www.courts.state.va.us to see the outcome of your case and pay and fines and costs that were imposed. If you wish to prepay a charge, prepayment must be received by 3:30 PM the business day before your assigned court date. An additional fee of \$35 will be assessed if you are tried in your absence. You may avoid paying this fee by submitting a written request to be tried in your absence. Said request may be mailed to the address above or emailed to nelsongd@vacourts.gov.

- Civil Cases: If you are not disputing the civil claim or unlawful detainer that has been filed in our court, your appearance is not necessary. A judgment will be entered against you and you can check the courts website at www.courts.state.va.us to see the outcome of your case. Any payment or payment arrangements would be made with the Plaintiff in the case.
 - If you do dispute the claim, disputed cases can be referred to mediation ahead of the court date. Contact the clerk's office for more details.
 - If you are seeking a continuance, contact opposing party/attorney to re-set the case. Contact the clerk's office first to get available court dates.