

Virginia:

In the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond, John Marshall Courts Building

**ORDER**

**IN RE: Richmond Circuit Court Ordered COVID-19 Temporary Procedures, Updated Notice to the Bar and Public**

Pursuant to the Chief Justice's Declaration of a Judicial Emergency, Second Order Extending Declaration of Judicial Emergency in Response to COVID-19 Emergency, Third Order Extending Declaration of Judicial Emergency in Response to COVID-19 Emergency, Fourth Order Modifying and Extending Declaration of Judicial Emergency, and Amendment to Fourth Order Modifying and Extending Declaration of Judicial Emergency, and consistent with the President's Declaration of a National Emergency, and the Governor's Declaration of an Emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia and this Court, effective May 18, 2020 to June 7, 2020, until further notice or revision, the Court hereby **ORDERS** the following:

All civil jury trials are suspended until further notice pursuant to the Supreme Court's Fourth Order Modifying and Extending Declaration of Judicial Emergency. The Court will resume bench trials where they can be safely conducted in compliance with guidance for transition from emergency to routine operations provided by the Office of the Executive Secretary in order to minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19 from in-person court proceedings, and at the Judge's discretion.

Civil motions are permitted and must be filed with the Clerk of Court and scheduled with the Judge's Chambers. Motions should be held via teleconference where possible but may be conducted in-person where they can be safely heard, and at the Judge's discretion.

Emergency matters will be prioritized by the Court. When submitting an emergency motion, file the motion with the Clerk of Court and provide a copy to the Judge's Chamber with sufficient detail for the Court to determine how soon the matter should be docketed. See the Chief's Justice's Declaration of a Judicial Emergency for examples of emergency matters. The assigned Judge will determine whether the matter meets the criteria of an emergency and schedule the matter as deemed appropriate.

All criminal jury trials are suspended until further notice pursuant to the Supreme Court's Fourth Order Modifying and Extending Declaration of Judicial Emergency. The Court will resume bench trials and pre-trial motions where they can be safely conducted in compliance with guidance for transition from emergency to routine operations provided by the Office of the Executive Secretary in order to minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19 from in-person court proceedings, and at the Judge's discretion. All criminal motions will be held by way of video conference, if possible, or in-person at the discretion of the trial judge. These matters shall be scheduled through Judge's Chambers.

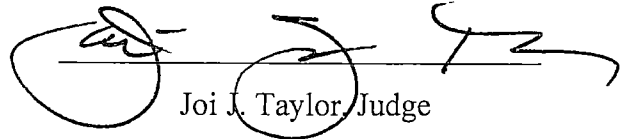
Criminal term days will go forward subject to the availability of Grand Jurors.

Parties having an emergency matter should contact Judge's Chambers. These matters may be heard telephonically if approved by the assigned Judge.

The Richmond Adult Drug Treatment Court with hearings set for each Friday at 10:00a.m. will proceed as scheduled. However, all drug screening/testing will be suspended through June 7, 2020.

It is so **ORDERED**.

ENTER: 5/18/2020

  
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Joi J. Taylor, Judge