

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE
IN RE: ORDER OF THE COURT TO PREVENT INFECTION AND OTHER MEASURES
NECESSARY TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS

ORDER

Whereas on March 16, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia issued an order declaring a judicial emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic suspending all non-essential, non-emergency cases until April 6, 2020; and, whereas such order was, on March 27, 2020, extended through April 26, 2020; and, whereas such order was, on April 22, 2020, extended through May 17, 2020; and, whereas such order was modified and extended through June 7, 2020, this Court finds and so orders the following protocols are necessary to protect the safety of the public and shall be in effect beginning Wednesday May 27, 2020, until further order of the Court.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Persons having a case in the Albemarle Circuit Court shall maintain a distance of 6 feet from the next person in line within the lane of entry by standing only in blue painters tape markings when waiting to enter the courtroom.
2. All persons entering the Albemarle Circuit Courthouse shall wear a mask at all times. When their case is called and counsel is before the bar, counsel is permitted to remove their mask to present their case.
3. All persons entering the Albemarle County Circuit Court shall use the hand sanitizer provided at the courthouse before passing through the metal detector.
4. All persons entering the Albemarle Circuit Courthouse shall be subject to having their temperature taken as determined to be necessary by the bailiffs.
5. All persons entering the building will be required to immediately sit in the courtroom unless directed otherwise by a bailiff.
6. All persons entering the courtroom shall be required to sit or stand only where there is a marking by blue painters tape in order to ensure that all persons are and remain 6 feet apart.
7. The Court has established that approximately 12 people may be safely seated in the courtroom, not including persons at counsel table. Therefore, only counsel and parties and necessary witnesses will be allowed in the courtroom.
8. All person in the courtroom will enter by the front door and exit by the side door.
9. Counsel will be notified by the Court's administrative assistant of the specific time when their case will be heard 24 hours prior to the court date in order to avoid numerous persons being in the courtroom unnecessarily.

CIVIL DOCKET CALL/SCHEDULING

10. All counsel are encouraged to set dates by submitting letters to the Court at dhodges@albemarle.org. by the Wednesday before docket call on Thursday. The

letters are required to contain the name of the case and case number, what is being set (trial or the specific motion/motions) and how long the case will take to heard by both sides.

GRAND JURY/SCHEDULING

11. All counsel are encouraged to submit the letters to the Court and the Commonwealth by the Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. prior to the Monday criminal docket. The letters are required to contain the following information: counsel's available dates, the name of the case, how it is to be set (guilty plea, bench trial, jury trial), the length of time required for the hearing and the date when speedy trial runs, if speedy trial is an issue.
12. These letters shall be emailed to dhodges@albemarle.org and to the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.
13. All Grand Jury proceedings will occur in the upstairs courtroom.
14. The Grand Jurors will be seated in the courtroom on the blue painters tape markings. Witnesses to appear before the Grand Jury will stand or be seated in the chair marked in the jury box.
15. Only one witness before the Grand Jury will be permitted in the courtroom at all times.
16. No more than two additional witnesses who are to appear before the Grand Jury will be permitted to wait in the upstairs in the rooms connected to the jury room. Once a witness leaves, that witness is directed to notify the next witness in line to report to the upstairs jury room.
17. The Court will set the criminal docket call schedule by certain times for specific cases to be determined 24 hours prior to June 1, 2020. The Court's Assistant will send out an email to counsel confirming the time when their case will be called.
18. A written notice signed by the defendant confirming their knowledge and consent of the time and date of their court hearing shall be filed with the Albemarle Circuit Court clerk's office within the 14 days of docket call or a show cause or capias may issue for failing to appear.

ENTER: _____

DATE: _____

Charles V. Haggard
5.22.2020