

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS OF THE

28TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Circuit and District Courts of the 28th Judicial Circuit entered an Order on the 1st day of April, 2020 continuing all in person court proceedings except for Mission Critical Functions until further order of the Courts; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Supreme Court entered a Fourth Judicial Emergency Order on the 6th day of May, 2020 establishing a preference for hearings to be conducted by video conferencing or telephone but authorizing “in person non-emergency matters”; and

WHEREAS, the Circuit and District Courts of the 28th Judicial Circuit and District are authorized under §17.1-207(A)(3) and §16.1-69.35(5) of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, to determine when the Courts shall be open for the transaction of business and may authorize the Clerk’s offices to close when the conditions prevailing would constitute a threat to the health and safety of court personnel and/or the general public.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that effective the 1st day of June, 2020 the courthouses of Washington and Smyth Counties and the City of Bristol shall be open to the public during regular business hours, subject to certain guidelines the respective Courts may issue regarding how hearings will be conducted, whether in-person or by other means. It is ORDERED that any person entering the courthouse shall comply with the following:

- a) Practice social distancing by remaining at least six (6) feet away from any other person; and
- b) Submit to a temperature check upon entry; and

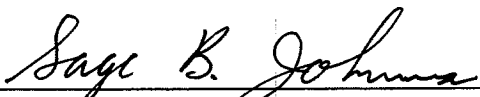
- c) Answer screening questions contained in paragraph 5 of the Fourth Judicial Emergency Order entered by the Virginia Supreme Court on the 6th day of May, 2020; and
- d) Wear facial covering or mask upon entry into the courthouse and continue wearing facial covering or mask at all points in the courthouse while in direct contact with another person and closer than six (6) feet.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no incarcerated person shall be transported to any court without a written order signed by a judge of the court in which that person's matter is pending.

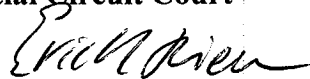
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the prior orders entered by the courts of the 28th Judicial Circuit and District on the 16th day of March, 2020 and the 1st day of April, 2020 are hereby rescinded.

This order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of these courts.

ENTERED THIS THE 27th DAY OF MAY, 2020.



SAGE B. JOHNSON, CHIEF JUDGE
28th Judicial Circuit Court



ERIC R. THIESSEN, CHIEF JUDGE
28th General District Court



JOSEPH B. LYLE, CHIEF JUDGE
28th Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court