

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE

**ORDER**

**CM20000147-00**

It appearing to the court that on May 6, 2020, the Supreme Court of Virginia entered an order, providing in part that beginning May 18, 2020, “all courts may hear in-person non-emergency matters if they determine it is safe to do so,” and it further appearing that the Governor has issued Executive Order 63, requiring the wearing of face coverings by all patrons in the Commonwealth, it is accordingly ORDERED as follows:

1. The court will now hear in-person non-emergency matters, as well as emergency matters, although in view of the backlog of criminal cases, which take priority on the docket, hearings on non-emergency matters may be delayed.
2. Every person, other than court staff, entering the courtroom will be required to observe social distancing, to sit in a designated area, and to wear a suitable face covering, unless that person falls within one of the exceptions to the executive order.
3. Only lawyers and their staff, parties, witnesses, court reporters, news reporters, and court staff will be allowed to enter the courtroom. Family members and friends who do not intend to testify will not be admitted.
4. Lawyers must remove their face coverings while examining a witness or speaking to the court, and witnesses must remove their face coverings while testifying.
5. Arraignments and bond hearings involving inmates housed in regional or non-local jails will be held by polycom videoconference to the greatest extent possible.

The Clerk is directed to distribute copies of this order to members of the bar and to post a copy prominently at the entrance to the courtroom.

ENTER this 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Littlefield", written over a horizontal line.

Judge