

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia has declared a Judicial Emergency through June 28, 2020 which limits the Circuit Court operations. For a more complete review of the Order, please refer to the Supreme Court of Virginia's website.

The Order suspends all criminal and civil jury trials until at least June 28, 2020, and are subject to a further period of suspension if the Declaration of Judicial Emergency is extended for additional periods as provided in Va. Code §17.1-330(E).

Beginning May 18, 2020 both criminal and civil non-jury matters will be docketed and heard. Please consult your attorney, should you have one. If you do not have an attorney, please understand that neither the Clerk's Office, nor the Court can give you legal advice.

The Court, and Henrico County have undertaken significant efforts to minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19. This includes, subject to limited exceptions, requiring that all visitors to the Courthouse wear Personal Protective Equipment ("PPE") such as nose and mouth coverings and/or gloves. Please bring your PPE with you to the Courthouse.

Upon arrival to the Courthouse, you will be asked a series of questions consistent with the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and your temperature taken. The Courts and Sheriff will continue to attempt to minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19 by enforcing recommended social and physical distancing.

The Circuit Court will have a separate entrance at the main Courthouse. Signage will direct you. Courtroom attendance for cases to be tried may be limited to those absolutely necessary, in the discretion of the Judge. Please limit the number of visitors to the Clerk's Office to those absolutely necessary to effect the purpose of the visit.

The Court will continue to prioritize emergency matters including, but not limited to, quarantine or isolation matters, criminal arraignments, bail reviews, protective order cases, emergency child custody or protection cases, civil commitment hearings, petitions for temporary injunctive relief, proceedings related to emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable persons, petitions for appointment of a guardian or conservator, and proceedings necessary to safeguard applicable constitutional protections.

The Court will continue to conduct court-related business by means other than in-court proceedings. However, the Court will also be hearing emergency and non-emergency matters in person. This decision to conduct in-person hearings may be modified on the terms and conditions as set forth by the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court.

Continuances and excuses for failure to appear shall be liberally granted for any cause resulting from the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Of course, the requests for continuances should be in good faith and the excuses should be valid.

If you have legitimate court business and are ill, caring for someone who is ill, or is otherwise in a high-risk category, as defined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) call (804)501-4750 or email [circuitjudges@henrico.us](mailto:circuitjudges@henrico.us).