

VIRGINIA: IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

IN RE: ORDER OF OPERATIONS DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY

Due to the current global COVID-19 pandemic and consistent with the Virginia Supreme Court's declarations of judicial emergency dated March 16, March 27, April 22, 2020, and May 16, 2020, and per Va. Code Section 16.1-69 (5), effective May 18, 2020, and continuing through June 5, 2020, the General District Court of the City of Virginia Beach will operate as follows:

- (1) **CRIMINAL CASES SET IN COURTROOMS 1 AND 2 WILL TAKE PLACE AS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED AT 8:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M., AND 2:00 P.M. ONLY THOSE PERSONS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE CASES AS PARTIES, WITNESSES OR ATTORNEYS WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE COURTROOMS.**
- (2) **CASES SET IN TRAFFIC COURTROOM C WILL TAKE PLACE AS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED AT 8:30 A.M. AND 11:00. ONLY THOSE PERSONS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE CASES AS PARTIES, WITNESSES OR ATTORNEYS WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE COURTROOM.**
- (3) **CONTESTED CIVIL TRIALS SET FOR 10:00 A.M. IN CIVIL COURTROOM B WILL TAKE PLACE AS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED. ONLY THOSE PERSONS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE CASES AS PARTIES, WITNESSES OR ATTORNEYS WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE COURTROOM.**
- (4) Felony bond hearings will be conducted at 8:00 a.m. in Traffic Courtroom D. Inmates will appear via video feed from the jail.
- (5) Misdemeanor bond hearings will be held at 9:00 a.m. in Traffic Courtroom D. Inmates will appear via video feed from the jail.
- (6) Arraignments will be held at 10:00 a.m. in Traffic Courtroom D. Inmates will appear via video feed from the jail.
- (7) Petitions for protective orders and for release of impounded vehicles may be submitted to the clerk's office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- (8) Petitions for emergency medical and mental health treatment may be submitted to the clerk's office between 8:00 and 4:00 p.m.
- (9) Garnishment exemption motions and summons on joint accounts may be submitted to the clerk's between 8:00 and 4:00 p.m. Hearings on said motions will be heard at 2:00 p.m. in Traffic Courtroom D.

No persons will be admitted to the courtrooms of the General District Court for any other matters without permission of the Court. No persons will be permitted to come to the General District Court's clerks' offices except for the matters enumerated above. **ALL PERSONS PERMITTED TO ENTER THE COURTHOUSE ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO WEAR FACE MASKS OR COVERING.**

ALL CASES SET IN TRAFFIC COURTROOMS A AND B THAT ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HEARD FROM MAY 18, 2020, THROUGH JUNE 5, 2020 ARE HEREBY CONTINUED. All parties to such cases will receive mailed notice of their new court dates. Parties may also go online to the case information tab at www.courts.state.va.us to access scheduling information.

EXCEPT FOR CONTESTED CASES SET FOR 10:00 A.M. IN CIVIL COURTROOM B ALL CIVIL CASES, INCLUDING PROTECTIVE ORDER HEARINGS, SCHEDULED TO BE HEARD FROM MAY 18, 2020, THROUGH JUNE 5, 2020, ARE CONTINUED FOR THIRTY DAYS FROM THE CURRENTLY SCHEDULED DATE. If the thirtieth day is a weekend or holiday, then the case will be heard on the next following business day that the Court is open. If the matter is a contested civil case set for 10:00 a.m., then the case will be continued to the thirtieth day at 10:00 a.m. in order to set a new date for trial. All current preliminary protective orders will continue in effect until the new continued protective order hearing date.

The Civil Division of the Court will accept for filing and processing new unlawful detainer cases so long as the return date on said case is after June 10, 2020 and further provided that *if the basis of the unlawful detainer is, in whole or in part, unpaid rent*, the plaintiff files an affidavit that the leased premises is not subject to the provisions of the CARES Act. The Court will accept other new civil cases (such as warrants in debt and detinue, and garnishments) with return dates after July 1, 2020. Filing shall be by mail, by electronic means as authorized, and via a drop box located at the entrance of the courthouse. E-signatures will be accepted on electronically filed cases during the pendency of this order. Cases filed on or after May 18, 2020, that do not comply with this order will be returned to the filer to be re-submitted with a new return date.

Parties are directed to www.courts.state.va.us for further information and updates.

Entered on May 14, 2020 by Daniel R. Lahne, Chief Judge