

# **VIRGINIA: IN THE JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT OF THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH**

## ORDER

Upon a State of Emergency declared by both the President of the United States and the Governor of Virginia, the Supreme Court of Virginia's Orders of Judicial Emergency, and upon consideration of guidelines issued relative to public safety by Federal, State and Local agencies due to the COVID-19 pandemic including the Office of the Executive Secretary's "Guide to Transitioning from Emergency to Routine Operations";

Furthermore, in consultation with the Sheriff of Virginia Beach and under direction of the Chief Judge of the Virginia Beach Circuit Court, the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court of Virginia Beach announces the following changes to the court's docket; it is

ORDERED pursuant to the Supreme Court of Virginia's Orders of Judicial Emergency and §16.1-69.35(5), beginning July 20, 2020 five courtrooms each day shall be operational until further notice. With some exceptions to accommodate previously scheduled hearings, the courts shall hear cases docketed in the manner shown in the attached chart which is incorporated into this order by reference as Exhibit A.

The court will continue to hear all types of cases, but the timing and number of cases placed on the docket shall be segmented and limited to ensure proper social distancing. The court will continue to hear arraignments, bond motions, and detention hearings via video.

Incarcerated defendants who are no longer in quarantine will be transported to court for trials and preliminary hearings on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If a defendant cannot be transported for court, the defendant's appearance will be by video and the defendant's bond will be reviewed pending the rescheduled hearing.

Detained juveniles will be transported to court on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. If a juvenile cannot be transported for court, the juvenile's appearance will be by video and the juvenile's detention status will be reviewed pending the rescheduled hearing.

Appearances may be waived for guilty pleas, no contest pleas or where the disposition or sentencing is agreed to by all parties. The parties shall submit a written plea agreement signed by the Commonwealth Attorney, defense counsel and defendant. If the defendant is being held in jail, the plea agreement shall include language that the defendant consents to entering a plea via video.

Any agreements or consent orders for civil and criminal cases including motions to nolle prose, dismiss, or dismiss due to compliance may be submitted to the Court for entry. The Court will continue to accept agreed or consent orders filed with electronic signatures.

Appearances may be waived on DHS cases where consent orders are submitted except for persons subject to a protective order.

Motions for Remote Hearing may be filed for any civil case that does not include witnesses other than the parties and the attorneys. The Motion for Remote Hearing must be completed in its entirety and is found on the court's website.

The court rescheduled and notified parties in all cases scheduled between March 17, 2020 and June 30, 2020 that were not heard due to the Judicial Emergency Orders pursuant to the "Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Phase I Transitional Plan for Returning to Normal Operations".

The Driver's License Ceremony is suspended until further order of the court. Until then, the Clerk's Office will mail licenses as they are received.

Pursuant to the Supreme Court of Virginia's order, all persons aged 10 or over entering the courthouse must wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth unless they have difficulty breathing, cannot remove a face mask without help or have other medical issues that make the wearing of a face covering unsafe.

The Presiding Judge shall have discretion on the number of people in each courtroom and whether masks are required at all times.

Only necessary parties should come inside the courthouse and the courtroom. Necessary parties are defined as the parties to a case and one parent/guardian in the case of a juvenile criminal or traffic matter. Any witnesses, other than police officers, DHS workers and probation officers, are to wait in their cars to be called into the courtroom when their testimony is needed. A party who intends to call a non-police officer or non-agency witness will be responsible for obtaining that witness' phone number to give to the courtroom clerk.


No one can sit inside of a courtroom until a case is called except attorneys waiting for cases, but the attorneys must exit the courtroom if their case is not being heard and there are 10 people in the courtroom including the judge, clerk and bailiff. If an attorney is asked to leave the courtroom before their case is called due to social distancing issues, they shall provide their cell phone number to the clerk.

When clerks check in cases, they may obtain cell phone numbers from the parties and ask them to go back to their car until they are notified that their case will be called.

It is important that all attorneys and litigants are prepared and ready to proceed when their case is called. In order to avoid delays and to minimize the number of people in the waiting area, attorneys should make every effort to meet with clients, witnesses and to have settlement/plea negotiations away from the courthouse and not on the morning of court.

Any party who is not permitted entry into the courthouse, should immediately contact the Clerk's Office by telephone (757-385-4391) or email ([vabjdr@vacourts.gov](mailto:vabjdr@vacourts.gov)) for further instruction.

ENTER: JULY 14, 2020

  
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CHIEF JUDGE

**Exhibit A**

<b>FIVE JUDGE SCHEDULE effective 7/20/20</b>	
<b>DUTY DOCKET (MONDAY-FRIDAY)</b>	
8AM ARRAIGNMENTS	8:30
ADULT VIDEOS	11:00
JUVENILE VIDEOS	11:30
PROTECTIVE ORDER HEARINGS	1:30
PPOS & EMERGENCIES	BY PAPER IN CHAMBERS
<b>CIVIL DOCKET (MONDAY-THURSDAY)</b>	
CIVIL	9-12:30
CONTESTED	1:30
<b>DHS DOCKET (MONDAY-THURSDAY)</b>	
DHS	9-11:30
CONTESTED	1:30
<b>CRIMINAL A DOCKET (MONDAY-WEDNESDAY)</b>	
ADULT	9-12:30
ADULT & JUVENILE	1:30
<b>CRIMINAL B DOCKET (MONDAY-WEDNESDAY)</b>	
JUVENILE, DCSE & ADULT	9-12:30
CONTESTED	1:30
<b>CRIMINAL C DOCKET (THURSDAY)</b>	
ADULT & JUVENILE	9-12:30
CONTESTED	1:30
<b>CRIMINAL D DOCKET (THURSDAY)</b>	
ADULT	9-12:30
CONTESTED	1:30
<b>CIVIL DOCKET (FRIDAY)</b>	
CIVIL	9-12:30
<b>DCSE DOCKET (FRIDAY)</b>	
DCSE	9-12:30
<b>ADULT DOCKET (FRIDAY)</b>	
ADULT	9-12:30
<b>TRAFFIC/DCSE DOCKET (FRIDAY)</b>	
TRAFFIC & DCSE	9-12:30