

**VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK**  
**EIGHTH ORDER CONCERNING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY**

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia has entered several Orders extending the judicial emergency, now through November 22, 2020. This Court has entered seven prior Orders Concerning Judicial Emergency, each adding to the types of matters that this Court will hear and stating the times and manner the Court will hear them.

With the Seventh Order Concerning Judicial Emergency, entered July 2, 2020, the Court lifted all prior restrictions implemented during the Judicial Emergency and confirmed that it would hear everything that it heard before the Judicial Emergency *except* jury trials.

All provisions of the Seventh Order Concerning Judicial Emergency remain in effect except the Court is now authorized to hear criminal and civil jury trials, which may be scheduled with the Clerk.

Counsel in civil jury trials should be mindful that criminal jury trials must take precedence over civil jury trials, and only three of the seven jury courtrooms were redesigned to allow adequate socially distant spacing for jurors. If all of those courtrooms are in use on the first day of a scheduled civil jury, or needed for criminal jury trials to begin the same day, the trial date of a civil jury may have to be continued. The Court will have increased flexibility in conducting civil jury trials using other courtrooms if counsel will agree to a five-person jury.

The provisions of this Court's May 13, 2020, Order, styled "In Re: Courthouse and Courtroom Safety in Response to COVID-19 Emergency" (CM20-172) regarding entry into the courthouse, physical distancing, and face covering, remain in full force and effect, with the following modification: Following the guidance of the Center for Disease Control, which currently notes insufficient evidence to support the effectiveness of face shields to protect nearby

people from the spray of respiratory droplets from the wearer, the Court clarifies such order to provide that face shields without masks are not an acceptable substitute for masks in the Courthouse.

The Clerk is DIRECTED to post a copy of this Order on the website and at the entrance to the Courthouse. The Court has sent a copy of this Order to the Norfolk Portsmouth Bar Association for distribution to its members.

**ENTER: October 30, 2020**

  
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MARY JANE HALL, CHIEF JUDGE