

THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 20-12

Resumption of Courthouse Operations

Whereas we continue to deal with the Novel Coronavirus, more particularly identified as COVID-19, a pandemic; and

Whereas, Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera has issued several Administrative Orders; and

Whereas, the public can review the particulars of those Orders on the Judiciary's webpage dedicated to COVID-19 at [Administrative Order on the Progressive Resumption of Full Function of Judiciary Operations](https://mdcourts.gov/sites/default/files/admin-orders/20200522progressiveresumptionoffullfunctionofjudiciaryoperations.pdf) (*Direct link: <https://mdcourts.gov/sites/default/files/admin-orders/20200522progressiveresumptionoffullfunctionofjudiciaryoperations.pdf>*).

It is therefore, by the Circuit Court of Queen Anne's County, hereby **ORDERED**:

- 1) The Queen Anne's County Circuit Court will adopt those Orders and shall operate in Phase I and move to **Phase II operations beginning June 5, 2020 at 5:00 pm**. Essential personnel will be reporting to the Courthouse for emergency operations **and public access will continue to be limited**.

All cases currently scheduled will be held by electronic/remote proceedings with staggered starting times. Please contact assignment and file an appropriate Motion to schedule a new proceeding or to request a postponement.

In-person proceedings will be specially set with staggered dockets beginning June 8, 2020. No more than ten people will be allowed in each Courtroom at one time for limited in-person proceedings. No more than 50 people allowed in the Courthouse at one time, including staff. Others will have to wait outside. Pagers are available for persons waiting.

- 2) MDEC continues to be available for electronic filings and will be processed by the Clerk's Office and eRecording through Simplifile for land recordings. For those without electronic capabilities, a drop-box will be available for hand-delivered filings at the front of the Courthouse, or you are encouraged to file by mail. If you have business with the Clerk's Office, contact them at 410-758-1773 as they will continue to be closed to the public, with limited exceptions as determined by the Clerk and by appointment only.
- 3) All persons entering the building will be subject to screening questions and a temperature scan at the entrance. All persons must wear a face covering to enter the building and must be worn inside unless directed that they may remove it. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in being refused entry or will be required to exit the building and

the QAC Sheriff's Deputies are authorized to take such action as necessary and required for safety.

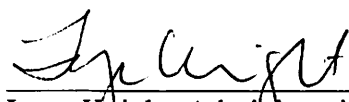
- 4) Those persons coming to the Courthouse are encouraged **not** to bring children under the age of 16 with them to the Courthouse. Individuals over the age 65, or who have underlying health conditions, also should not come to the Courthouse or may notify the Court to request reasonable accommodations.
- 5) The Family Law clinic will operate remotely beginning June 15, 2020 at 9:00 am. Litigants may contact Family Services at 410-758-0216 ext. 5128 to schedule an appointment. Court house mediations will be limited, and the children's program will continue to be suspended.
- 6) All jury trials thru September 25, 2020 are cancelled and will be rescheduled. Grand Jurors and trial jurors are not required to report until notified. Notices will be mailed with instructions or you can check the Court website for further instructions. Questions for the Jury Commissioner can be addressed at 410-758-0216, extension 5149.
- 7) Foreclosure proceedings continue to be stayed until July 25, 2020.
- 8) Statutory and rules deadlines for the initiation of matters and for conducting certain proceedings are controlled by *the Revised Administrative Order on the Emergency Tolling or Suspension of Statutes of Limitations and Statutory Rules and Deadlines Order of May 22, 2020*.
- 9) All previous Orders related to restricted operations are rescinded.
- 10) These restrictions will remain in place until we move to the next phase and a formal Order rescinding this Order is entered;
- 11) Any violations of this Order maybe punishable by contempt proceedings and/or any other sanction permitted by law.

ENTERED

JUN 01 2020

Clerk, Circuit Court
for Queen Anne's County

June 1, 2020


Lynn Knight, Administrative Judge
Queen Anne's County Circuit Court