

THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 20-22

Resumption of Courthouse Operations

Move to Phase V

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 on the Courts website

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 move to **Phase V operations beginning October 5, 2020 at 8:00 am. Please check with your attorney or visit the Court website at www.mdcourts.gov/circuit/queenannes for up-to-date information if you have business before the Court.**

Electronic proceedings for cases will continue to be scheduled. Please contact the law clerk, assignment or file an appropriate Motion to schedule those proceedings. Notices will be sent in cases that the Court determines are appropriate to be heard remotely.

In-person proceedings will be scheduled by separate notice, including the resumption of court trials and jury trials. Courthouse and courtroom limitations continue to include appropriate social distancing requirements. It is requested that only necessary parties, attorneys, and witnesses be present.

Trial Exhibits are required to be pre-filed in advance of the trial date.

- 2) MDEC continues to be available for electronic filings and will be processed by the Clerk's Office. 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. The Clerk's Office is open for business but with limitations related to appropriate social distancing. If you have business with the Clerk's Office, please contact them at 410-758-1773 or visit their website at www.mdcourts.gov/clerks/queenannes.
- 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 face coverings must be worn inside unless directed that it may be remove. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in being refused entry or being required to exit the building.

- 4) The Family Law clinic will be open to the public as well as continuing to operate remotely. Litigants may contact Family Services at 410-758-0216 ext. 5128 to schedule an appointment. Court house mediations will be limited and will continue remotely. The children's program will continue to be suspended.
- 5) Jury trials will resume but with different procedures due to COVID-19 restrictions. Grand Jurors and trial jurors are required to report as notified and may be required to report at different starting times. Please read the notices received by mail and visit the Court website related to jury service as it will be updated regularly for further instructions. Questions for the Jury Commissioner can be addressed at 410-758-1773 ext. 5149 or visit the website at www.mdcourts.gov/circuit/queenannes/jurorinfo.
- 6) Foreclosure proceedings under the federal moratorium continue to be stayed until December 31, 2020.
- 7) All previous Orders related to restricted operations are rescinded.
- 8) Any violations of this Order maybe punishable by contempt proceedings and/or any other sanction permitted by law.

ENTERED

OCT 02 2020
Clerk, Circuit Court
for Queen Anne's County

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

October 2, 2020