

**The Circuit Court for Dorchester County
State of Maryland**

Administrative Order

2019-06

(Amended)

WHEREAS, for 143 years, the primary public entrance and exit for the Dorchester County Circuit Courthouse was the triple doors which fronted on High Street; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the 1995 addition and the deteriorating condition of the triple doors, the primary public entrance and exit to the Courthouse was changed to a single door which fronted on Court Lane; and

WHEREAS, that in the years since 1995, enhancements have been made to security hardware at the present entrance, including a magnetometer and an x-ray machine as well as a console for the security operator, all of which can be relocated; and

WHEREAS, the arrangement at the current public entrance provides that only 1 person can enter or exit the building at a time and, at times of heavy Courthouse usage, there is pedestrian congestion at that location; and

WHEREAS, members of the public over the years have requested that the High Street triple doors of the Courthouse be returned to their status as the primary public entrance and exit to the Courthouse; and


WHEREAS, through grant funding, Dorchester County has been able to replace the original triple doors with new doors and hardware and has been able to add additional security features to be used at the front entrance, including bullet resistant panels to provide some protection to security staff, some of which cannot be installed at the present entrance; and

WHEREAS, the High Street entrance to the Courthouse is farther away from Courthouse staff offices than the current entrance and would provide a buffer of distance in the event there was trouble at the security entrance; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Administrative Judge of this Court to provide for easy public access to the Courthouse as well as to address security functions at the public entrance and throughout the Courthouse;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THIS 4th day of APRIL, 2019 by the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court for Dorchester County, Maryland as follows:

1. That beginning on Monday, April 8, 2019 at 8:30 a.m., the primary public entrance and exit for the Dorchester County Circuit Courthouse shall be through the doors that front on High Street; and
2. That until other arrangements are made, the Courthouse entrance for those who have difficulty in negotiating steps, will continue to be the door on Court Lane and they will be redirected by signage to access the ramp and be screened by Courthouse Deputies pursuant to standard protocols and procedures; and
3. The existing Court Lane entrance will be closed to the use of employees and the public, except for use as an emergency exit; and
4. This Amended Order supersedes Administrative Order 2019-06 entered on April 3, 2019.



JUDGE BRETT W. WILSON
Administrative Judge for Dorchester County

cc: Amy J. Craig, Clerk of Court Dorchester County
Dorchester County Council
Dorchester County Sheriff
Suzanne C. Johnson, Clerk of Court of Appeals
Pamela Harris, State Court Administrator