

THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 20-20

Resumption of Courthouse Operations

Move to Phase IV

ENTERED

AUG 26 2020

Clerk, Circuit Court
for Queen Anne's County

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 begin to operate in **Phase IV beginning August 31, 2020 at 8:00 am**. Public access will continue to be limited for only those who have business before the Court. Court trials will resume and be scheduled accordingly.

Electronic proceedings for cases will continue to be scheduled so litigants, attorneys, and witnesses can appear remotely. Requests for a remote proceeding shall be made by Motion. Notices will be sent in cases that the Court determines are appropriate to be heard remotely.

No more than ten people will be allowed in each Courtroom at one time for limited in-person proceedings and will be scheduled by separate notice. 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. Pre-filing of exhibits for all proceedings shall be **five (5) business days** prior to the scheduled hearing. 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 be open to the public with limitations on the number of persons allowed into the office. Appointments are strongly encouraged.

- 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.
- 4) The Family Law Clinic will continue 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 the children's program will continue to be suspended.
- 5) 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 410-758-1773 ext. 5149.
- 6) Resumption of foreclosure proceedings will begin on July 25, 2020.
- 7) All previous Orders related to restricted operations are rescinded.
- 8) These restrictions will remain in place until we move to the next phase and a formal Order rescinding this Order is entered;
- 9) Any violations of this Order may be punishable by contempt proceedings and/or any other sanction permitted by law.

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

August 20, 2020