

# THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 20-27

### Change in Courthouse Operations

#### Move to Back Phase II

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 a new Administrative Orders on November 24, 2020 addressing the recent surge in COVID cases; 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 back to **Phase 2 operations beginning November 30, 2020 at 8:00 am. Civil and Criminal Jury trials will be suspended through February 16, 2021. Those matters currently scheduled can proceed as a plea or will be converted to a status conference, and will be held remotely.**

**Please check with your attorney or visit the Court website for up-to-date information if you have business before the Court.**

- 2) **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.**
- 3) **Courthouse and courtroom limitations continue to include appropriate social distancing requirements. It is requested that only necessary parties, attorneys, and witnesses be present.**
- 4) 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 and is checked twice daily. The Clerk's Office is open for business but with limitations related to appropriate social distancing. **Appointments are strongly encouraged.** If you have business with the Clerk's Office, please contact them at 410-758-1773 or visit their website.

- 5) 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.
- 6) The Family Law clinic will be closed to the public and will operate remotely. Litigants may contact Family Services at 410-758-0216 ext. 5128 to schedule an appointment or to receive assistance. Court house mediations will be held remotely, and the children's program will continue to be suspended.
- 7) Jury trials have been suspended through February 16, 2021. Please read the Notices 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 the website.
- 8) All previous Orders related to restricted operations are rescinded.
- 9) Any violations of this Order maybe punishable by contempt proceedings and/or any other sanction permitted by law.

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

November 30, 2020

**ENTERED**

NOV 30 2020

Clerk, Circuit Court  
for Queen Anne's County

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Clerk Circuit Court  
for Queen Anne's County