

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOWARD COUNTY IS OPEN FOR LIMITED BUSINESS FROM MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020 THROUGH May 1, 2020, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Pursuant to Chief Judge Barbera's Order of March 25, 2020, regarding emergency status, no one exhibiting illness will be permitted in the courthouse and the following additional information is provided.

The following mandatory matters shall continue to be scheduled and heard:

- Bail reviews/bench warrants
- Arraignments for detained defendants (may be included in a settlement conf.)
- Juvenile detention hearings
- Peace order petitions with juvenile respondents
- Emergency evaluation petitions
- Quarantine and isolation petitions
- Extraditions cases
- Body attachments
- Extreme risk protective order appeals

The following emergency matters shall be reviewed to determine whether it will be heard in person, with remote electronic participation or if it should be rescheduled or resolved without a hearing:

- Emergency Habeas Corpus petitions
- CINA shelter care and adjudication on shelter care
- Emergency delinquency
- Emergency issues in guardianship matters
- Domestic violence protective orders
- Appeals from peace orders
- Family law emergencies
- Temporary restraining orders
- Criminal competency matters
- Motions regarding extreme risk protective orders, domestic violence protective orders or peace orders
- Contempt hearings related to peace or protective orders
- Matters involving locally incarcerated defendants

Only the parties, attorneys, and testifying witnesses are permitted to attend the above events, unless permission is expressly granted by the Administrative Judge to do so. **Jury duty through May 1, 2020 is canceled.** Dockets are updated daily and can be found at <https://mdcourts.gov/circuit/howard/dockets>

The Clerk's office will not be interacting with members of the public or attorneys, except by telephone. All court filings shall be electronically filed by attorneys or, if self-represented, mailed or

placed in the dropbox, located at the security station immediately inside the courthouse. Land Records/Licensing Office is available by phone at 410-313-5850 and by mail. A drop box for land records is located at the security station immediately inside the courthouse. ALL WEDDING CEREMONIES ARE CANCELLED. Call 410-313-5850 to reschedule.

The law library and self-help programs will be closed to the public, except that attorneys or litigants who are in court for hearing or trial may use the library on the day of their hearing or trial.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), this court seeks to limit the level, duration and quality of contact among persons who frequent the Circuit Court for Howard County. To that end, all persons who enter the Circuit Courthouse are encouraged to practice good hygiene, by frequently washing their hands, keeping an appropriate distance from others and – in the case of employees – keeping work stations, keyboards and phones clean. Commonly used surfaces in the Circuit Courthouse, including the areas around doors and elevators, are cleaned throughout the day by cleaning crews.

The concept of “social distancing” in the Circuit Courthouse is encouraged, but normal human interaction is inevitable. Thus, all courthouse users should be prudent and exercise good judgment during those interactions.

Orders related to restricted operations, suspension of foreclosures and evictions and land records can be found at: <https://mdcourts.gov/coronavirusupdate>

Please check back frequently for updates or revisions. Additional contact numbers are:

Calendar Management: 410-313-3575
Court Administration: 410-313-3029
Jury Commissioner: 410-313-3804
Clerk’s Office: 410-313-2111
Land Records/Licensing: 410-313-5850

William V. Tucker, Administrative Judge