

Baltimore City District Court- November 16, 2020

Phase III

The judiciary will return to Phase III on November 16, 2020.

The clerk's office will remain open to the public.

However, the drop box is still being used to limit persons entering the building

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SCREENING PROTOCOLS

To enter the building, everyone will be subject to screening protocols.

1. Each person entering the building must wear a mask (not scarf or gator) covering the nose and mouth.

2. Answer questionnaire with CDC questions and have a no-contact temperature check. A reading of 100.4* will trigger denial of access to the building.

Social Distancing will be enforced. Bailiffs have the right to delay or deny access to the building and/or courtroom if safe social distancing cannot be maintained.

There is limited space in the hallway and strict 6' spacing will be enforced.

Therefore, I strongly encourage motions to be filed by mail or lockbox. All motions will be stamped and ruled on timely.

CRIMINAL / TRAFFIC

Bail reviews will continue remotely.

Please do not come in person. Family members can join the call

Males will be heard at Wabash

Tuesday to Friday- 11AM and 2PM

Monday - 9:30, 11 and 2

Tuesday after a Monday holiday

Or

Monday after a Friday holiday- 9:30, 11 and 2

Females/ Juveniles

Hargrove at 1:30PM every day

CRIMINAL CASES (NOT DV)

All criminal cases of NON-incarcerated defendants will be postponed until after January 1, 2021 subject to new orders

Preliminary hearings will be held to enter indictment number or reduction remotely

The incarcerated defendants will have remote hearings but not contested trials

The jail will not be transporting any defendants to court (until further notice)

Pleas, preliminary dispositions and JTP can be done remotely.

JTPs can be done by motion- drop box or mail.

Cases can be accelerated and heard (remotely) if agreement of all parties

TRAFFIC

DUI and serious accident cases will be heard in person or remotely on the scheduled trial date

All other traffic cases, incarcerable and non-incarcerable will be postponed until after Jan. 1, 2020

Cases can be accelerated and heard (remotely) if agreement of all parties

DV CRIMINAL

Will be done in person / or remotely at Eastside

Staggered dockets

Remote hearings are strongly encouraged

Remote hearings (not trials) for incarcerated defendants will be heard on the scheduled trial date

Jury trials can be prayed by motion in advance of trial date or remotely

DV- CIVIL

Temporary and final protective hearings will be heard in person at the Eastside Court building.

If we are unable to maintain social distancing, some temporary hearings may be done remotely.

Hearings with incarcerated litigants will be heard remotely.

Problem Solving Courts

Drug, Mental Health and Veteran's Treatment court will continue remotely

These hearings are conducted remotely on the same days they were done pre-covid.

CIVIL

TORT & CONTRACT CASES

Pre-trial conferences are encouraged.

Remote hearings are strongly encouraged

All civil cases will be heard on the scheduled trial date unless you receive a postponement notice

RENT

FAILURE TO PAY RENT*

*See Chief Judge Morrissey's new Rent order

All FTPR postponed to after January 1, 2021.

All other rent related matters will be heard remotely or in person on the scheduled trial date

Cases may be reduced to limit traffic in the hallway and to maintain social distancing

CAVEAT

Our courtrooms are small and don't easily allow for social distancing.

Cases will be set on the hour, staggered, to allow movement of people and safe environments for all.

Filings by mail and use of the drop box is strongly suggested

Remote hearings will be used whenever possible

Submission of evidence and documents in the civil division is by email at: dcbaltcityfayette@mdcourts.gov

Include your telephone number, email address and case information on all filings so you can be contacted remotely.

Remember that bailiffs may have to ask people to delay entering the courtroom or court building. This is for the safety of our staff and the public.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Please stay safe and well

Barbara Baer Waxman

Administrative Judge

District Court- Baltimore City

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COVID QUESTIONNAIRE

To gain faster access into the Court building:

Copy the COVID questionnaire and fill it out before entering the building

Have your client do the same

The questionnaire is in English and Spanish

This questionnaire is very important.

We are trying to keep our staff and the public safe. If someone tests positive, this questionnaire will be used for contact tracing. The health department will know who may have had contact with someone infected. Having your phone number will allow you to be notified so that you and your family can be kept safe.

The health and safety of our employees and the public is paramount to the judiciary.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Barbara Baer Waxman

Administrative Judge

District Court- Baltimore City