

Baltimore City District Court- July 20, 2020

Phase III

The judiciary will begin phase III on July 20.

The most significant change is that the clerk's office will be open to the public.

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

1. Each person entering the building must wear a mask or facial covering the nose and mouth.
2. Answer questionnaire with CDC questions, 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.

Note: At the end of this update is the COVID Questionnaire used at all District Court buildings. Please print and fill out prior to arriving at the courthouse. It will allow for a much quicker entry.

CRIMINAL / TRAFFIC

Bail reviews will continue remotely.

The court will continue remotely arraigning all incarcerated defendants. At this hearing, plea offers are made, jury trials can be prayed, viability of the case is discussed.

If no resolution, hearing dates are given. Bails can be reviewed.

Remote arraignments for DUI cases will begin the end of July.

Private attorneys should send entry of appearances to the court and contact the SAO for plea offers.

The SAO has begun indicting felony cases and those numbers are placed on the record several times a week.

Felonies are being reduced and those reduction dockets are held remotely. Bail reviews are also considered.

Domestic violence criminal cases will be scheduled in person in early August. The dockets will be hourly with limited cases on each docket to maintain social distancing in the courtroom.

Incarcerated defendants with other criminal or traffic cases will be scheduled in August and September.

DV

Temporary protective hearings will be reviewed in person at the Eastside Court building during working hours.

Some temporary hearings may be conducted remotely if interim orders were filed.

PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

Drug, Mental Health and Veteran's Treatment court have continued remotely since April.

These hearings are conducted remotely on the same days they were done pre-covid. We have had at least 1 remote graduation and more to come.

CIVIL

TORT & CONTRACT CASES

Pre-trial conferences are encouraged.

Judge Cooper (Judge in Charge of Civil) sent a letter to the Bar Association requesting lawyers to contact the court.

If you have not done so, email Emily Abell emily.abell@mdcourts.gov

Pre-trial conferences will be scheduled for all Large and Small claim cases.

All aspects of the case will be discussed including any portion of the case that can be tried remotely.

AFFIDAVIT JUDGEMENT CASES

Per Chief Judge Morrissey's order of July 10, 2020, cases will be set for trial beginning August 17.

The trials will be remote for the creditor/plaintiff and in person for the debtor/defendant.

LANDLORD / TENANT CASES

The court has continued to review emergency breach of lease cases since April.

Tenant Holding Over cases will be set after July 20.

Failure to pay rent cases will not be set until August 31, 2020 or when directed to do so by law.

Landlords need to be compliant with the CARES ACT. Noncompliant filings will be rejected by the clerk's office.

Hearings beginning after August 19, 2020:

Rent Escrow

Civil and Criminal Housing

Illegal Lockout

Denial of Essential Services

Injunction and Receivership

CAVEAT

Attached to this document is the COVID questionnaire. Print several copies and fill out before entering the building. It will save you time entering our courthouses.

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

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

INITIAL SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

IMPORTANT: THE SCREENER SHOULD IMMEDIATELY STOP THE SCREENING AND DENY ACCESS TO ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO ANSWERS YES TO ANY SCREENING QUESTION.

For infection control purposes, I need to ask you a few questions:	
Have you had any of the following symptoms in the last seven days: fever or chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or any other flu-like symptoms, headache or unusual muscle pain, loss of taste or smell?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
In the past week, do you know if you have been in close (less than 6 feet), prolonged contact (more than 15 minutes) with someone with a fever, cough, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, flu-like symptoms, or a diagnosis of COVID 19?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Have you had a positive test for COVID-19 infection within the past fourteen (14) days?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



Individuals who answer YES to ANY question on the Initial Screening Questionnaire OR refuse to participate in the screening process must be denied access to the facility.

Name (printed) _____

Phone number _____

Temperature _____

Access Determination _____ Approved _____ Denied

Name of staff completing form _____ Date _____ Time _____

(Please print)

ENGLISH	SPANISH
INITIAL SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE	CUESTIONARIO DE EVALUACIÓN INICIAL
<p>IMPORTANT: THE SCREENER SHOULD IMMEDIATELY STOP THE SCREENING AND DENY ACCESS TO ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO ANSWERS YES, TO ANY SCREENING QUESTION.</p>	<p>IMPORTANTE: EL EVALUADOR DEBE SUSPENDER INMEDIATAMENTE LA EVALUACIÓN Y NEGAR EL ACCESO A CUALQUIER INDIVIDUO QUE RESPONDA SÍ A CUALQUIER PREGUNTA DEL CUESTIONARIO.</p>
<p>For infection control purposes, I need to ask you a few questions:</p>	<p>Para fines de controlar infecciones, necesito hacerle algunas preguntas:</p>
<p>Have you had any of the following symptoms in the last seven days: fever or chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or any other flu-like symptoms, headache or unusual muscle pain, loss of taste or smell?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>¿Ha tenido alguno de los siguientes síntomas en los últimos siete días: fiebre o escalofríos, tos, dolor de garganta, falta de aliento, náuseas, vómitos, diarrea u otros síntomas similares a los de la gripe, dolor de cabeza, o dolor muscular inusual, la pérdida del sentido del gusto o del olfato?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Si <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>In the past week, do you know if you have been in close (less than 6 feet), prolonged contact (more than 15 minutes) with someone with a fever, cough, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, flu-like symptoms, or a diagnosis of COVID 19?</p>	<p>En la última semana, ¿sabe si ha estado en contacto cercano (menos de 6 pies), prolongado (más de 15 minutos) con alguien con fiebre, tos, falta de aliento, náuseas, vómitos, diarrea, síntomas similares a los de la gripe o con un diagnóstico de COVID 19?</p>
<p>Have you had a positive test for COVID-19 infection within the past fourteen (14) days?</p>	<p>¿Ha tenido una prueba positiva por la infección de COVID-19 en los últimos catorce (14) días?</p>

Individuals who answer YES to ANY question on the Initial Screening Questionnaire OR refuse to participate in the screening process must be denied access to the facility.	Individuos que responden SÍ a CUALQUIER pregunta de la evaluación inicial O se niegan a participar en el proceso de evaluación, se les <u>debe</u> negar el acceso al edificio.
Name of Individual Seeking Access _____ (please print)	Nombre del individuo que solicita el acceso _____ (en letra de imprenta)
Temperature of Individual Seeking Access _____	Temperatura del individuo que solicita el acceso _____
Access Determination	Determinación sobre el acceso.
___ Approved ___ Denied	___ Aprobado ___ Negado
Name of staff completing form _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ (Please print)	Nombre del personal que completa el formulario _____ Fecha: _____ Hora: _____ _____ (en letra de imprenta)