

# **By Order of the Court of Appeals, the District Court Shall Enter a Phased Return to Court Operations<sup>1</sup>**

**ANY PERSON who seeks entrance into a Courthouse shall be:**

- (1) subject to COVID-19 screening questions;
- (2) subject to non-contact temperature checks;
- (3) **REQUIRED** to wear face masks or coverings;
- (4) **REQUIRED** to maintain social distancing.

**To ensure the safety of all, please be advised that the Courthouses will be operating at a limited capacity.**

- (1) You may be asked to wait outside;
- (2) Seating inside is limited;
- (3) Only those essential to the hearing should appear.

We must adhere to CDC guidelines and social distancing, and we reserve the right to clear the Clerk's Offices and hallways, and limit entry if we reach capacity. **Any person that fails to comply, has symptoms of COVID, or has had direct contact with someone who is COVID positive will be denied access.**

## **The District Court Clerk's Office will continue to accept and process ALL filings.**

Those seeking to file a petition for a protective order, peace order, extreme risk protective order, or emergency evaluation may access the Courthouses and the Clerk's counters. **All other Clerk's Office business will be conducted by phone or APPOINTMENT ONLY** to ensure safety and efficiency.

**Filings will continue to be accepted at the locked boxes** at the Commissioner's Entrance in Upper Marlboro, and at the main entrance in Hyattsville. The boxes are emptied hourly from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. A time/date stamp is available. Payments for citations may be made online at any hour.

## **PHASE 3 MATTERS:**

- Some temporary and **ALL FINAL** protective orders, peace orders, extreme risk protective orders, and emergency evaluations will be heard in person. Hearings on temporary orders where the interim was granted by a Commissioner will be heard remotely. Parties will be notified and provided with details.
- Remote hearings for bail reviews, bail reconsiderations, most preliminary hearings for incarcerated individuals, fugitive matters, quarantine and isolation violations, body attachments. Parties will be notified and provided with details.
- Limited criminal trials, violations of probation, emergency motions, and alcohol-related motor vehicle matters, as described in the Order, will be scheduled and parties will be specifically notified.
- Mental Health Court and Adult Drug Court will continue to conduct remote hearings.
- **We encourage eWarrants for search warrants.**
- If a local inspection has been provided, rent escrow matters will be scheduled.
- Tenant holding over, breach of lease, wrongful detainer matters, and associated warrants of restitution will be scheduled.
- **ALL OTHER PROCEEDINGS ARE CONTINUED.**

## **The Commissioner's Office will no longer accept petitions for interim orders during the business day.**

Any person seeking a petition may file at the Clerk's Office during business hours. Commissioner's will accept petitions for interim orders after hours and on the weekends **ONLY**.

Please call the Clerk's Office in **Upper Marlboro at 301-298-4000** or in **Hyattsville at 301-298-4200** for additional information. You can also find information and forms at [www.mdcourts.gov](http://www.mdcourts.gov).

**Lisa A. Hall Johnson, Administrative Judge, Fifth District Court of Maryland**

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<sup>1</sup> Phases are described in the Court of Appeals of Maryland *Amended Administrative Order On the Progressive Resumption of Full Function of Judiciary Operations Previously Restricted Due to the COVID-19 Emergency*, dated June 3, 2020. Orders are available at <https://mdcourts.gov/coronavirusorders>.