



Sherri Koch
Administrative Judge

DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND
District Number 6

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Rockville, Maryland 20850
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ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER – PHASE III – DISTRICT SIX

WHEREAS Pursuant to the Court of Appeals December 27, 2021, INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RESTRICTING STATEWIDE JUDICIARY OPERATIONS IN LIGHT OF THE OMICRON VARIANT OF THE COVID – 19 EMERGENCY, the Judiciary moves to Phase III on December 29, 2021,

WHEREAS, the rapid emergence of the Omicron variant during the COVID-19 emergency requires the Judiciary to restrict operations for a limited period of time in order to maintain essential functions, while employing appropriate safety measures and monitoring local health conditions to continue to support the health and safety of Montgomery County residents and Judiciary personnel

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority of the Court of Appeals, Maryland courts are permitted to provide services and conduct court proceedings remotely or in-person,

Pursuant to the authority found in Maryland Courts and Judicial Proceedings Code Ann., Section 1-607 and to ensure the administration, operation, and maintenance of District Six, it is this 28th day of December 2021, ORDERED

1. Both the Rockville and Silver Spring District Courts are open to the public. The courts will operate with increased restrictions to limit the concentration of individuals and allow social distancing consistent with the guidance of the CDC and/or MDH and the Court of Appeals.
2. The clerk's offices in Rockville and Silver Spring will be fully open for business without an appointment. Social Distancing is required. If Clerk's offices are at capacity, you may have to wait until space becomes available. DV petitioners will receive priority access.
3. Both Rockville and Silver Spring Courthouses will maintain virtual drop boxes for filings. Filings/payments may be made in the lobby boxes (emptied hourly) 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. (No screening is required.)
4. Other than for protective order and peace order cases, the Court will not accept anything via email.
5. Any person seeking entrance must answer COVID-19 screening questions.

6. Any person seeking entrance must have a non-contact body temperature check, if available. All persons must have face covering/mask over mouth and nose while in the building.
7. All persons must sit only on areas marked with blue tape.
8. Parties, witnesses and lawyers will receive priority for in-person courtroom seating.
9. All person must be 6' apart from others while in any part of the building.
10. The Court will hear the following types of cases:

CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC:

- (1) bail reviews and bail reconsiderations, bench warrants including matters involving locally incarcerated defendants, consistent with the Administrative Order Guiding the Response of the Trial Courts of Maryland to the COVID-19 Emergency as it Relates to Those Persons who are Incarcerated or Imprisoned, filed April 14, 2020
- (2) trials for incarcerated individuals
- (3) trials for other criminal actions alleging violent acts
- (4) trials for alcohol-related motor vehicle cases
- (5) guilty pleas, with deferral of any incarceration start date considered
- (6) hearings on petitions for mental health evaluations and competency to stand trial
- (7) preliminary hearings
- (8) hearings on petitions for violations of probation
- (9) juvenile waiver hearings
- (10) any other matters that can be handled remotely or without testimony or both

CIVIL:

- (1) emergency evaluation petitions
- (2) quarantine and isolation violation petitions
- (3) body attachments
- (4) temporary and final domestic violence, peace, and extreme risk protective orders and petitions during court hours
- (5) temporary restraining orders
- (6) any other matters that can be handled remotely or without testimony or both

LANDLORD/TENANT:

- (1) rent escrow actions, provided local inspection practices are capable of being conducted
- (2) tenant holding over actions and any associated warrants of restitution
- (3) any breach of lease actions and any associated warrants of restitution
- (4) any wrongful detainer actions and any associated warrants of restitution
- (5) processing of warrants of restitution for failure to pay rent actions

11. The following types of cases will not be heard until further notice:

- (1) Minor traffic violations
- (2) Failure to Pay Rent Cases
- (3) Small claims cases
- (4) Oral Exams
- (5) Municipal Infractions

12. All large claims civil cases shall be remote. For ALL remote proceedings, pre-marked exhibits must be received in the clerk's office AND by opposing parties a minimum of three (3) business days before the scheduled proceeding. Rebuttal exhibits and impeachment exhibits need not be pre-filed. Exhibits must be filed in MDEC.
13. The following dockets will be remote: preliminary hearings, bonds, PTSU, civil motions, and DV modifications.
14. Final protective order and peace order hearings may be remote. Temporary hearings will be remote on a case by case basis.
15. This Court's Second Amended Administrative Order Remote Hearing Protocols dated 9 August 2021 remains in effect. To the extent that it conflicts with this Order, this Order will prevail.



Sherri D. Koch
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6th District
Montgomery County, Maryland