

PHASE III

(December 29th, 2021 - February 8th, 2022)

Due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and consistent with the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control, on December 27th, 2021, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland issued an Administrative Order directing all courts to return to Phase III of the Maryland Judiciary's phased reopening plan. Harford County District Court will implement the following schedule effective January 3, 2022.

Overview

- Two courtrooms open hearing in person matters, five days a week.
- Clerk's office will remain open to the public
- Only parties, attorneys or testifying witnesses will be allowed to enter the courthouse.
- Parties are **STRONGLY** encouraged to appear remotely.
- Face masks continue to be required in all public areas and during all court proceedings

Plan by Case Type

The following docket schedule will be in effect:

- One in person court hearing civil domestic violence petitions for protection, certain emergency civil proceedings and bail reviews each day.
- One in person criminal docket will be heard each day. Priority will be given to incarcerated defendants.
- The criminal domestic violence docket will be the in person criminal docket heard on Wednesdays.
- ORC and MHDP will be remain as currently scheduled. All parties will appear remotely.
- One judge will be available remotely to hear certain criminal pleas at 9 am and 1:30 pm. Both sides must be represented and appear via Zoom. Please contact the clerk's office to schedule your plea.

- One judge will be available remotely to hear civil trials at 9am and 130 pm. Both parties must be represented and appear via Zoom.

The following case types are postponed until after February 8th, 2022:

- routine traffic citations
- failure to pay rent petitions
- affidavit Judgments
- show cause/oral examinations