

By Order of Court of Appeals the District Court Shall Return on an interim basis to Phase III of Emergency Operations¹

The District Court for Howard County and the District Court for Carroll County Courthouses are open to the public, with limited exceptions.

- ANY PERSON who seeks entrance shall be:

- (1) subject to COVID-19 screening questions,
- (2) subject to non-contact temperature checks where available,
- (3) required to wear face masks or coverings, at all times unless directed otherwise and
- (4) required to maintain social distancing.

The Phase III Emergency Operations will begin on December 29, 2021 through February 8, 2022.

The Following Matters will be conducted:

CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC:

- (1) bail reviews and bail reconsiderations, bench warrants including matters involving locally incarcerated defendants.
- (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 (deferral of any incarceration start date considered).
- (6) hearings on petitions for mental health evaluations and competency to stand trial.
- (7) preliminary hearings.
- (8) Violations of Probation.
- (9) Juvenile Waiver Hearings.
- (10) any other matters that the Court determines 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.
- (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.

RECOVERY COURT:

Howard County Recovery Court is fully operational.

ALL OTHER PROCEEDINGS ARE CONTINUED, including:

- 1) Civil Trials
- 2) Failure to pay Rent Cases
- 3) Minor Traffic (unless a request for a remote hearing is filed, or the matter is on the Traffic Waiver docket).
- 4) Parking Citations
- 5) Red-light Camera Citations
- 6) Speed Camera Citations
- 7) School Bus Citations

The Commissioner's office is OPEN 24 hours each day for the following:

Initial appearance and advice of rights	Applications for criminal charges
Posting Bail	Bench warrant satisfactions
Domestic Violence Protective Order Petition	Peace Order Petition
Extreme Risk Protective Order Petition	Emergency Evaluation Petition

Call the Clerk's office in Howard at **(410) 480-7700**, and in Carroll at **410 871-3500** for additional information. You can also find information at www.mdcourts.gov.

Orders are available at <https://mdcourts.gov/coronavirusorders>

**Pamila J. Brown , Administrative Judge, Tenth District Court of Maryland
December 29, 2021**

¹ Phases are described in the Chief Judge Getty's [Interim Administrative Order On the Restricting Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the Omicron Variant of the COVID-19 Emergency](#), dated December 27, 2021.