

## Covid-19 and ADA Accommodations

### Frequently Asked Questions

The Maryland Judiciary [has posted updated information about court operations online](#). To promote public health and safety, many courts are holding some hearings online. The Maryland Courts are committed to promoting access to justice for all. The courts can provide an accommodation to help you take part in a hearing, whether in-person or online.

**Q: I cannot come to the courthouse because my disability puts me at greater risk of serious consequences from Covid-19. What should I do?**

A: Contact the local court's [ADA Coordinator](#). Explain that you need an accommodation because of your disability. Describe the type of accommodation you need. [Use this form to submit a request](#). File your request for an accommodation with the Clerk's Office.

**Q: What if I have jury duty in a circuit court?**

Contact the Jury Office in your court as soon as possible after receiving your Juror Summons. Follow the instructions on the Summons about requesting an accommodation. You can click below to find the phone number to the Jury Office in your county. [See a full list of Jury Offices](#).

**Q: If I cannot wear a mask while I am in the courthouse because of my health condition, can I still appear in person? If not, what should I do?**

A: Everyone at court must wear a mask or face covering at all times. This includes judges, court staff, and anyone over 2 years old. If you are called for jury duty you must also wear a mask. The mask or face covering must cover both the nose and mouth completely. If you arrive at a courthouse without an adequate face covering or mask, we will give you one. We may also give you an alternative means for remote access, if appropriate and possible. Clear personal shields and other barriers are not a substitute for masks or face covers.

If you want to take part in an online or remote proceeding, contact the local court's ADA Coordinator in advance. The ADA Coordinator can help make the necessary arrangements so you can safely take part in the hearing. If you have been called for jury duty and cannot wear a mask, contact the Jury Office. You may ask to have your jury service rescheduled.

You can lower your mask to eat, drink, or take oral or nasal medications. While doing so, please observe appropriate social distancing. You must replace your mask upon completion.

If your hearing is in a courthouse, the judge or magistrate may require you or others to use a disposable mask or wear a personal shield instead of a mask when speaking. This will make it easier for everyone to hear the person speaking. Social distancing and other public health guidelines will be followed in those instances.

**Q: I need to appear remotely -- how does that work? Are there other options for me to participate?**

A: Most Maryland courts will use [Zoom for Government](#) for remote proceedings, although some courts may use other platforms. Zoom for Government and other remote platforms are not available in all locations. Contact the court to find out what platform your court will use for your hearing.

Once you receive guidance from the court, follow the instructions that you receive from the court to appear remotely. Additional information on Maryland's virtual courtrooms is available here: <https://mdcourts.gov/virtualcourtrooms>

**Q: I need a sign language interpreter and/or real time court reporting. How does this work if the proceeding is remote?**

A: If you are deaf or hard of hearing, we can provide sign language interpreting or CART services for your online hearing. Please contact the court as soon as possible to arrange for these accommodations.

The court will then send you information on how to attend a remote proceeding with the assistance of sign interpretation or CART reporting. If you do not make this request in advance the court may have to reschedule the hearing to arrange for these services.

**Q: I am not able to operate a computer without assistance. Will the court let someone assist me during the remote appearance?**

A: Yes. A court may ask the person who is helping you to provide their name, but that person will not be able to speak for you or to argue your case unless they are a lawyer.

If you have more questions, contact:

JaCina Stanton

Email: [ada@mdcourts.gov](mailto:ada@mdcourts.gov)

Telephone: 410-260-1732