

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

## **The Upper Marlboro and Hyattsville Courthouses are closed to the public, with limited exceptions.**

- Limited employees are permitted in these facilities, based on social distancing requirements.
- 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,
  - (4) required to maintain social distancing.

## **FILING:**

### **The District Court Clerk's Office is closed to the public, but is accepting and processing ALL filings.**

A locked box is available for District Court filings at the Commissioner's Entrance in Upper Marlboro, and at the main entrance in Hyattsville. The box will be emptied hourly from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. A time/date stamp is available.

**PAYMENTS FOR CITATIONS may be made on-line at any hour.**

**Commissioners MAY NOT accept payments for filing fees or citations/tickets.**

## **PHASE 2 MATTERS:**

- The District Court will continue to conduct remote hearings for bail reviews, bail reconsiderations, preliminary hearings for incarcerated individuals, fugitive matters, quarantine and isolation violations, protective orders, peace orders, extreme risk protective orders, body attachments, emergency evaluations, and hearings on emergency motions.
- The Mental Health Court and Adult Drug Court will continue to conduct limited remote hearings, including conducting hearings on petitions for mental health evaluations and competency to stand trial.
- Guilty pleas and preliminary hearings with proposed resolutions will be considered and scheduled as needed. Status conferences on criminal matters will be scheduled.
- The District Court will continue to review and rule on bench warrants, body attachments, and will begin to process a variety of motions in chambers, granting hearings where appropriate. Counsel and parties will be notified.
- The District Court will continue to review search warrants. **We encourage eWarrants for search warrants.**
- The District Court will hear emergency breach of lease matters involving threats of injury to people or property, emergency wrongful detainer actions, and associated warrants of restitution.
- As Phase 2 progresses, the District Court will begin to identify, schedule, and hear any other matters that can be scheduled, heard or resolved given the social distancing requirements.
- **ALL OTHER PROCEEDINGS ARE CONTINUED.**

## **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 at **301-298-4000** for additional information. You can also find information at [www.mdcourts.gov](http://www.mdcourts.gov). **Orders are available at <https://mdcourts.gov/coronavirusorders>**

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

<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.