

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF CAROLINE

ORDER

On March 12, 2020 the Virginia Supreme Court entered an "Order Declaring Judicial Emergency in response to COVID-19 Emergency". This Order was extended through and including the eighteenth extension to March 28, 2021.

In accordance with the Order of the Supreme Court all courts and security personnel shall continue to take reasonable measures to prohibit individuals from entering the courthouse if they answer "Yes" to any of the following questions, as currently recommended by the Virginia Department of Health:

- a. Are you experiencing:
 - i. A new fever (100.4 °F or higher) or a sense of having a fever
 - ii. A new cough that you cannot attribute to another health condition
 - iii. New shortness of breath or difficulty breathing that you cannot attribute to another health condition
 - iv. New chills that you cannot attribute to another health condition
 - v. A new sore throat that you cannot attribute to another health condition
 - vi. New muscle aches (myalgia) that you cannot attribute to another health condition, or that may have been caused by a specific activity (such as physical exercise)
 - vii. A new loss of taste or smell
- b. Have you had a positive test for the virus that causes COVID-19 disease within the past 10 days?
- c. In the past 14 days, have you had close contact (being within 6-feet for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, or having direct exposure to respiratory secretions) with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19?

The court and security personnel shall direct such individuals to contact the clerk's office by telephone or other remote means to inform the clerk of their business before the court so they may receive further instruction regarding alternate arrangements for court access.

By Order of Virginia Supreme Court it is hereby ORDERED:

- 1) All previous orders are incorporated; jury trials will be conducted in accordance with the reopening plan approved by the Virginia Supreme Court.
- 2) Persons aged 5 years or over entering the courthouse must wear a face covering that covers the nose and the mouth. This includes judges, attorneys, deputy sheriffs, court reporters, employees, members of the public, contractors, and all others who work in or visit the courthouse. Within a courtroom, the presiding judge may authorize removal of a face mask to facilitate a proceeding. Face coverings should be compliant with current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- 3) The number of participants for in court proceedings may be limited to ensure social distancing;
- 4) The Clerk's office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays by appointment only. Personnel will be available to respond to telephone inquiries and to process electronic filings, if available. The land records room will be open on a limited basis by appointment only;
- 5) Anyone who is ill or believed to have been exposed to COVID-19 virus should remain home and contact the clerk's office by telephone or email.

This Order may be shortened, modified or extended as circumstances dictate.

Entered this 3rd day of March, 2021



SARAH L. DENEKE, JUDGE

VIRGINIA:

In the Supreme Court of Virginia held at the Supreme Court Building in the City of Richmond on Tuesday, the 2nd day of March, 2021.

IN RE: EIGHTEENTH ORDER EXTENDING DECLARATION OF JUDICIAL EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 EMERGENCY

Under the constitutional, statutory, and inherent authority of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Court unanimously EXTENDS the Declaration of Judicial Emergency through March 28, 2021, and ORDERS that the provisions of the *Seventeenth Order Extending Declaration of Judicial Emergency In Response To Covid-19 Emergency*, entered February 8, 2021 (Seventeenth Order), shall continue to apply in all courts of the Commonwealth for the duration of this Order except as modified herein, and unless amended by future order.

To address the backlog of pending cases, any court may, in the exercise of its sound discretion: (i) grant continuances for good cause shown or as otherwise provided by law; and (ii) increase the use of in-person court proceedings whenever the court determines it is safe to do so.

This Order shall be in effect from March 8, 2021, through March 28, 2021. Accordingly, the Period of Judicial Emergency now extends from March 16, 2020, through March 28, 2021. The Declaration of Judicial Emergency may be extended for additional periods as provided in Va. Code § 17.1-330(E). It is so ORDERED.



(SEAL)

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia