

VIRGINIA:

IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA:

Revised procedures for the period of **March 16 through June 12, 2020**
pursuant to the Judicial Emergency as declared by the Virginia Supreme Court:

Regular operations in the Alexandria General District Court have been suspended through June 12, 2020. That does not mean that regular operations will resume on June 15, 2020. For the foreseeable future all dockets will be segmented to allow for physical distancing and reduced numbers of people in the Courthouse at any given time. Scheduling for dockets beginning June 15 has yet to be finalized. You may check the status of a case online at **vacourts.gov** or by calling us at:

Traffic: (703) 746-4041
Criminal: (703) 746-4030
Civil: (703) 746-4021

So far during the Judicial Emergency we have not rejected any requests for remote proceedings, however, fewer such requests have been made than we expected. If you have a matter that you would like heard telephonically or by video, please do not hesitate to let us know and we will do everything we can to accommodate your request.

For now through June 12, the following procedures apply:

TRAFFIC AND CRIMINAL

All cases with incarcerated defendants will be handled by agreement of the Court, Commonwealth & Defense Counsel on a case-by-case basis. Video advisements remain unchanged. Bond motions will be heard every day at 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.

Traffic and other infractions are postponed – notices of new court dates will be mailed to all defendants who are charged with traffic infractions not associated with jailable offenses. The same is true **for non-jailable criminal offenses** (such as drunk in public and open container) as well as **civil infractions** (such as VRE and Metro fare evasion cases).

Jailable offenses **with attorneys** – if you have an attorney who has advised the Court that they are representing you in this case, contact your attorney who will select a new date by agreement with the prosecutor.

Jailable offenses **without attorneys** – if you **do not** have an attorney who has advised the Court that they are representing you in this case then you may have already received notice of a new court date; otherwise you may call the Court or check the status of your case online.

CIVIL

All Civil cases have been continued for the period of March 16 through June 12, 2020 with the exception of protective orders and garnishments (see below). The Court will not be sending any additional notices in civil cases so Plaintiffs should send Defendants a letter notifying them of their new court date. Parties are permitted to agree to different dates than those selected by the Court as long as the proposed date has been cleared by the Clerk's office.

When First Returns resume after June 15, the dockets will be significantly segmented and some attorneys may be required to break their matters into multiple time slots. For instance, if an attorney has 50 cases on the same day, they may have to appear for 20 cases at 1:30, 20 cases at 2:00 and 10 cases at 2:30. The logistics of moving litigants through the Courthouse safely and providing adequate notice to all parties of exactly when and where to be are complicated. Any assistance from the attorneys in helping us to plan for this new procedure will be greatly appreciated.

Initial Petitions for **Preliminary Protective Orders** will continue to be heard at the time of filing and may be granted for longer than the 15-day limit set forth in Virginia Code Section 19.2-152.9 (B).

Garnishment returns will be reviewed in chambers on the date and time they were originally scheduled and the judge will enter a payment order or dismiss the garnishment. Exemption claims by judgment debtors, requests for rules to show cause by judgment creditor, or other requests may be heard by telephone. Call the Clerk's office at (703) 746-4021 to make arrangements for the parties to appear before the judge telephonically.

DONALD M. HADDOCK, JR.
Chief Judge