

VIRGINIA: IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK
ORDER CONCERNING JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia having declared a Judicial State of Emergency throughout the Commonwealth from March 16 through April 6, 2020 and extended said order, first to April 26, 2020, then to May 17, 2020 and a third time through June 7, 2020 it is hereby ORDERED that, except as explicitly provided below, all civil, traffic and criminal cases that are presently set to be heard in this court on or before June 10, 2020, are hereby **CONTINUED.**

The Court finds that the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 is a “natural disaster” as defined in *Code §§ 44-146.16, 19.2-243*. During the period of the judicial emergency, **the Court will only hear the following matters:**

CRIMINAL CASES

1. Initial appearances and appointments of counsel.
2. Bond hearings.
3. Misdemeanor plea agreements in cases prosecuted by the Commonwealth’s Attorney, for in-custody defendants located in the Norfolk City Jail. May be docketed in consultation with the Clerk.
4. Felony waivers for in-custody defendants. May be docketed in consultation with the Clerk.

--Defendants will not be transported to court. All matters involving in-custody defendants will be handled via video conference.

CIVIL CASES

5. Requests for preliminary protective orders and permanent protective order hearings.
6. Garnishment exemptions.
7. Residential Unlawful exclusions. (Commercial exclusions may or may not be docketed after Judicial screening for emergent cause)
8. Vehicle impoundments.
9. Previously scheduled contested trials where testimony can be held through telephonic or video means and preapproved by the Court.

Only parties who will provide testimony or prepare filings should enter the courthouse. Pursuant to Order of the Norfolk Circuit Court, dated May 13, 2020, all citizens wishing to enter the courthouse shall wear a face covering

The Court will also hear such other matters as a judge of this Court may allow, compelling cause being shown. Litigants should call the clerk’s office if they believe an emergency hearing is necessary at **757-664-4900.**

The Court requests that members of the Bar appearing in pending cases with self-represented litigants advise such litigants of the content of this order.

To the extent they may be inconsistent, the prior General Orders Regarding Coronavirus Disease entered by this Court, are hereby SUPERSEDED.

As conditions change and other issues are brought to the Court's attention, revisions of this order may be issued.

The Clerk is ORDERED to post a copy of this order at the entrance to the Courthouse. The Court has sent a copy of this order to the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association and the Virginia Beach Bar Association for distribution to its members.

ENTER: May 14, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael C. Rosenblum". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

MICHAEL C. ROSENBLUM-Chief Judge