

SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA

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STEPHEN R. MCCULLOUGH

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SENIOR JUSTICES

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LAWRENCE L. KOONTZ, JR.

LEROY F. MILLETTE, JR.



SUPREME COURT BUILDING
100 NORTH NINTH STREET
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(804) 786-6455

CLERK

MURIEL-THERESA PITNEY

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CHIEF STAFF ATTORNEY

K. LORRAINE LORD

REPORTER OF DECISIONS

KENT SINCLAIR

STATE LAW LIBRARIAN

GAIL WARREN

Press Release: April 11, 2022

SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA BUILDING PROTOCOLS EFFECTIVE APRIL 11, 2022

Effective April 11, 2022, all persons entering the Supreme Court of Virginia building must comply with the following protocols.

Entering the Court Building: All persons entering the building should conduct a temperature self-screening at the building entrance. By entering the building, all persons certify that:

- They do not have symptoms of COVID-19: temperature of 100.4 degrees or more, chills, cough, difficulty breathing, unusual fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- They are not subject to isolation under CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines following a diagnosis of COVID-19 or probable COVID-19.
- They are not subject to quarantine under CDC guidelines following close contact with someone with COVID-19 or following international travel.

Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will be denied entry into the building.

Physical Distancing: All persons are encouraged to practice physical distancing by maintaining 6 feet of distance whenever possible in all public and shared common areas.

Notification of Potential Exposure: Any attorney or visitor who tests positive for COVID-19 within 5 days after being present in the Court Building must promptly notify the Clerk ((804) 786-2251).

Public Access to Oral Argument: Subject to availability, 4 spaces in the Courtroom will be reserved for members of the press and the public. Those interested in attending in-person should contact the Clerk's Office 48 hours in advance to check availability and reserve a space. To allow for physical distancing in the Courtroom, other interested members of the press and the public may access oral arguments through a live audio stream available at <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/home.html>. The link also is available through the Court's webpage at www.vacourts.gov.

SESSION WEEK

Limited Attendance by Counsel and Litigants at Oral Argument: No more than 2 people may appear for argument on behalf of each litigant, including in consolidated civil and criminal cases. Arguing counsel must provide the name and contact information for any second person attending the argument. Persons not in compliance with these requirements may be denied entrance into the Courtroom. Any request for an exception to attendance limits must be made in writing with the Clerk at least 14 days in advance of argument. If an attendance exception is requested, please advise as to whether you are comfortable being seated together at a distance of less than 6 feet.

Oral Argument Arrival and Departure: Cases will be scheduled in sets of 3. Attorneys and attendees should:

- Arrive promptly;
- Check in with the Capitol Police;
- Proceed to the Courtroom or designated panel room as directed;
- Comply with Courthouse signage and instructions from Clerk's Office and security staff; and
- Depart when argument in their case is over.

Requests for Oral Argument by Videoconference: Although the Court's expectation is that cases will be argued in person, rather than by videoconference, the Court recognizes that some videoconference arguments may be necessary. Attorneys seeking permission to appear virtually must advise the Clerk's Office within 5 days of receiving the schedule stating whether opposing counsel will appear in person or by video.

Intervening Events that Prevent In-Person Appearance for Oral Argument: If intervening events occur that would prevent arguing counsel from appearing in person on the day of argument, counsel should obtain agreement of opposing counsel and notify the Clerk ((804) 786-2251).

WRIT PANELS

Until further notice, Writ Panels will be held in the Main Courtroom. Arguments will be heard from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Morning Docket) and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Afternoon Docket).

Limited Attendance by Counsel and Litigants at Oral Argument: No more than 1 person may appear for argument on behalf of each petitioner and no more than 1 person may appear on behalf of each respondent. Persons not in compliance with this requirement may be denied entrance into the Courtroom. Any request for an exception to attendance limits must be made in writing with the Clerk at least 14 days in advance of argument. If an attendance exception is requested, please advise as to whether you are comfortable being seated together at a distance of less than 6 feet.

Oral Argument Arrival and Departure: Attorneys and litigants should:

- Arrive promptly;
- Check in with the Capitol Police;
- Proceed to the Courtroom or designated panel room as directed;
- Comply with Courthouse signage and instructions from the Office of the Chief Staff Attorney and security staff; and
- Depart when argument in their case is over.

Requests for Oral Argument by Teleconference: These requests should be submitted to the Office of the Chief Staff Attorney.

Intervening Events that Prevent In-Person Appearance for Oral Argument: If intervening events occur that would prevent arguing counsel from appearing in person, counsel should notify the Office of the Chief Staff Attorney ((804) 786-2259).

Media Contact: Alisa W. Padden, Director of Legislative and Public Relations, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia, (804) 786-6455.