

TWENTY-FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF VIRGINIA

~~CHARLES L. RICKETS, III~~
CHIEF JUDGE
GEORGE M. COCHRAN JUDICIAL CENTER
113 EAST BEVERLEY STREET
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA 24401



STAUNTON
PHONE (540) 332-3870
FAX (540) 332-3873
WAYNESBORO
PHONE (540) 942-6616
FAX (540) 942-6774

COUNTIES
ALLEGANY, AUGUSTA, BATH
BOTETOURT, CRAIG, HIGHLAND ROCKBRIDGE

CITIES
BUENA VISTA, COVINGTON
LEXINGTON, STAUNTON AND WAYNESBORO

Memorandum

To: Members of the Bar
and *Pro Se* parties with cases pending in the Staunton Circuit Court

From: Staunton Circuit Court Judge's Chambers

Date: March 31, 2020

Re: Circuit Court Procedures for Staunton Circuit Court in response to Judicial Emergency in Response Covid 19 pandemic

On March 27, 2020, the Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court extended the judicial emergency in response to the Covid 19 pandemic that was declared on March 16, 2020. I have attached/enclosed a copy of the Chief Justice's March 27, 2020 Order. Pursuant to the Chief Justice's Order, all non-essential and non-emergency proceedings currently scheduled in the Staunton Circuit Court between the dates of April 6, 2020 and April 27, 2020 shall be continued.

The following docketing procedures are hereby implemented as a result of the judicial emergency.

Criminal Cases:

A.) All continued criminal cases, including probation violations and sentencing hearings shall be rescheduled through a criminal scheduling docket on May 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. If you wish to appear by phone for the criminal scheduling docket, you must notify Eileen Lunsford, of your intention to appear by phone on or before 12:00 p.m. on May 11, 2020, otherwise you will need to appear in person at the criminal scheduling docket to reset the case. If you elect to appear by phone, you must be available to the phone between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. on May 12, 2020. It is the attorney's responsibility to notify his or her client of the new hearing date and time, in writing, with a copy of the notification being sent to the clerk of court.

B.) Grand Jury April 20, 2020: At this time, we intend to hold our April Grand Jury as normally scheduled on Monday, April 20, 2020. However, counsel is strongly encouraged to pre-set as many of these cases as possible. We will only deal with new indictments and "emergency" matters on this date. All other pending matters will be set at a later date, on or before

the May 12th criminal scheduling date. Our Plea/set day for April 20th Grand Jury is May 5, 2020 and we will use that date for as many cases as possible. However, it will be necessary to limit the amount of cases from every 15 minutes to every 30 minutes or more in order to keep the amount of people in the courtroom at one time to a minimum.

Civil Cases:

A.) If you filed a praecipe for the April 14, 2020 motions day docket, your case will be continued to the May 19, 2020 motions day. You will be notified of the precise time of your case on the May 19, 2020 motions day docket when the docket is finalized.

B.) If your civil case was scheduled for a hearing between April 6, 2020 and April 27, 2020, you will be contacted by Ms. Lunsford to reset the case.

During the judicial emergency, the Court will give precedence on the docket to emergency matters, including but not limited to, emergency adult protective services cases, criminal cases with speedy trial issues, injunctions, isolation orders, judicial authorization for treatment, protective orders, quarantine orders, bond appeals, advisements and such other cases as the Court deems, in its discretion, are necessary to be heard to protect important liberty and constitutional interests and the health and safety of the parties and others involved in the proceedings.

If you have a case that needs to be heard during the judicial emergency, please contact Eileen Lunsford at lunsfordep@ci.staunton.va.us or at [540-332-3870](tel:540-332-3870) or Staci N. Falls, Clerk of the Court at [540-332-3874](tel:540-332-3874). Thank you for your continued cooperation and patience in rescheduling cases during this time.