

IN THE MATTER OF	*	IN THE
ORDERING MAGISTRATES TO	*	CIRCUIT COURT
WEAR BLACK JUDICIAL ROBES	*	FOR
DURING ON-THE-RECORD	*	CARROLL COUNTY,
PROCEEDINGS	*	MARYLAND

*

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, Maryland Rules 16-104 and 16-105 grant the Administrative Judge the responsibility for the overall administration of the Circuit Court for Carroll County, Maryland (“Court”); and

WHEREAS, this Order applies to all Court facilities - the Historic Courthouse and the Courthouse Annex ; and

WHEREAS, the April 2026 Report and Recommendations of the Magistrate Study Workgroup recommends that magistrates wear black judicial robes; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated July 13, 2026, from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland to the Chair of the Magistrate Study Workgroup, the Chief Justice authorized magistrates to wear black robes while presiding over matters; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a requirement for magistrates to wear black judicial robes during all on-the-record proceedings provides uniformity, professionalism, and public recognition of the judicial work performed by magistrates; and

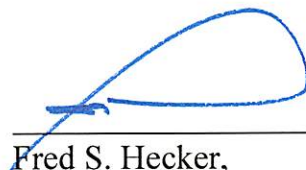
WHEREAS, the adoption of a uniform practice regarding judicial attire for Court magistrates will provide consistency across all Court facilities and proceedings while underscoring the solemnity of judicial processes;

NOW THEREFORE, it is this 12th day of August, 2026, by the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court for Carroll County, Maryland,

ORDERED, that effective August 24, 2026, that unless otherwise directed by the Administrative Judge, all Court magistrates shall wear black judicial robes while presiding over any on-the-record proceeding conducted in person, by remote electronic means, or in a hybrid format; and it is further

ORDERED, that for purposes of this Order, “on-the-record proceedings” means all proceedings in which a verbatim record is created by a court reporter, electronic recording, or any other officially authorized means regardless of the nature of the proceeding or the location for which it is conducted; and it is further

ORDERED, that the Administrative Judge, or the Administrative Judge Designee, may authorize a temporary exception to this requirement for good cause shown, under emergency circumstances, or other situations that make compliance impracticable or inappropriate.



Fred S. Hecker,
Administrative Judge