

CIRCUIT COURT FOR CARROLL COUNTY



UPDATED NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19 VIRUS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CARROLL COUNTY IS OPEN FOR LIMITED BUSINESS ON TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020 THROUGH APRIL 3, 2020, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Pursuant to Chief Judge Barbera's **Administrative Order on Statewide Judiciary Restricted Operations Due to the COVID-19 Emergency** Order of **March 16, 2020**, regarding emergency status, no one exhibiting illness will be permitted in the courthouse and the following additional information is provided.

The following mandatory matters shall continue to be scheduled and heard:

- bail reviews/bench warrants
- arraignments for detained defendants
- juvenile detention hearings
- emergency evaluation petitions
- quarantine and isolation petitions
- extradition cases
- body attachments
- extreme risk protective order appeals
- For all other emergency matters including those listed below, the administrative judge or his or her designee shall review the petition, determine whether it must be heard in person, or can be heard with

remote electronic participation, or can be scheduled after the emergency period has ended, or can be resolved without a hearing:

- shelter care hearings and/or related adjudications
- emergency delinquency hearings
- emergency Habeas Corpus petitions
- emergency issues in guardianship matters
- domestic violence protective orders
- appeals from peace orders
- family law emergencies
- temporary restraining orders
- criminal competency matters
- motions regarding:
 - extreme risk protective orders
 - domestic violence protective orders
 - peace orders
 - contempt hearings related to peace or protective orders
 - matters involving locally incarcerated defendants

Only the parties, attorneys, and testifying witnesses are permitted to attend the above events, unless permission is expressly granted by the Administrative Judge to do so. Dockets are updated daily and can be found at <https://www.mdcourts.gov/clerks/carroll/dockets>.

The Clerk's office will not be interacting with members of the public or attorneys, except by telephone. All court filings shall be electronically filed by attorneys or, if self-represented, mailed or placed in the drop box, located at the bailiff station immediately inside the Courthouse Annex. The Land Records/Licensing Office is available by phone at 410-386-8761 and by mail. ALL WEDDING CEREMONIES ARE CANCELLED. Please call 410-386-8761 to reschedule.

Other than judges, employees of the Circuit Court for Carroll County, the Register of Wills Office and the State's Attorney's Office, the only persons who may access the Circuit Court are litigants, attorneys or testifying witnesses in a case scheduled for hearing on a particular day. Public Defenders, probation agents, Carroll County Office of Child Support, Pretrial Services employees, Department of Juvenile Justice employees, and Department of Health and Human Services employees may access the courthouse. Any other user of the courthouse who frequently appears on behalf of a government agency who is not on the list above should contact the Administrative Judge.

The law library and self-help programs will be closed to the public, except that attorneys or litigants who are in court for hearing or trial may use the library on the day of their hearing or trial.

If you are scheduled or required to appear at the Circuit Court for Carroll County and are unable to enter because of the restrictions in this Order, you are directed to proceed as follows:

1. If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney by telephone or email;
2. If you are an attorney and you are scheduled to appear in court before a judge or magistrate, please contact the judge's or magistrate's chambers by telephone or email;
3. If you are a self-represented litigant, contact the office of the Clerk of Court by telephone or email;
4. If you have business with the Clerk of Court, contact the office of the Clerk of Court by telephone or email;
5. If you have business or meetings scheduled with Drug Treatment Court staff, contact the Drug Treatment Court staff by telephone or email.

If you have business with the Register of Wills or Orphan's Court, contact the office of the Register of Wills by telephone at 410-848-2586 or email.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), this court seeks to limit the level, duration and quality of contact among persons who frequent the Circuit Court for Carroll County. To that end, all persons who enter the Courthouse Annex are encouraged to practice good hygiene, by frequently washing their hands, keeping an appropriate distance from others and

– in the case of employees – keeping work stations, keyboards and phones clean. Commonly used surfaces in the Courthouse Annex, including the areas around doors and elevators, are cleaned throughout the day by cleaning crews.

The concept of “social distancing” in the Courthouse Annex is encouraged, but normal human interaction is inevitable. Thus, all Courthouse Annex users should be prudent and exercise good judgment during those interactions.

Please check back frequently for updates or revisions. Additional contact numbers are:

Clerk's Office: 410-386-8710

Civil Assignment: 410-386-2715, 2716

Criminal Assignment: 410-386-2027, 2967

Court Administration: 410-386-2854

Law Library: 410-386-5672

Jury Commissioner: 410-386-2093

Land Records/Licensing: 410-386-8761

Register of Wills: 410-848-2586

Fred S. Hecker
Administrative Judge