



CIRCUIT COURT FOR CARROLL COUNTY RESUMPTION OF PHASE V



ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

In accordance with Chief Judge Joseph M. Getty's Fourth Amended Administrative Order Expanding Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the COVID-19 Emergency, dated February 18, 2022, Maryland Courts will move to Phase V on March 7, 2022. The policies and procedures set forth in this Order are effective March 7, 2022, and apply to the Circuit Court for Carroll County Annex, Historic Courthouse, and the Carroll County Supervised Visitation Center ("Visitation Center").

GENERAL GUIDANCE

The courthouses will remain open to the public during normal business hours. The wearing of face masks is voluntary for judges, judiciary personnel, attorneys and the general public. Health screening will no longer be conducted for entry to the courthouses.

While health screening will no longer be conducted, anyone meeting the following criteria shall refrain from entering the courthouses or the Visitation Center:

- 1) Anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis who remains symptomatic or within the applicable quarantine period;
- 2) Anyone not fully vaccinated who was exposed to a person with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis and who remains within the applicable quarantine period; and
- 3) Anyone who has been advised by a doctor, hospital, or local health department to self-quarantine.

For these three situations, where a continuance in scheduled proceedings is being requested, a written motion shall be filed unless it is impracticable to do so. In ruling on such a motion, the presiding judicial officer may: (i) require reasonable proof of such condition before granting a continuance; and (ii) where appropriate, require such individual to participate in the scheduled hearing via remote means in lieu of a continuance.

CLERK'S OFFICE

The Clerk's Office will remain open to the public. Appointments will still be required for marriage licenses and civil marriage ceremonies. The public may, but is not required to, make appointments for other services.

COURT DOCKETS AND COURT PROCEEDINGS

Except as may be allowed by a Judge or Magistrate on the court's own initiative, or in response to a motion, all hearings, trials, and conferences (including civil and criminal pretrial conferences



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and status conferences) in all matters, including criminal, civil, family, guardianship and juvenile matters, will be held in-person in the courthouse. Motions for remote participation will be considered by the court on a case-by-case basis.

JURY TRIALS

Criminal and civil jury trials will resume on March 7, 2022. Jury selection and jury trials will be conducted in the same manner as they had been conducted prior to COVID-19 emergency operations.

OTHER COURT SERVICES

The Law Library will be open to all authorized users.

The Family Law Clinic will remain open to conduct business in-person.

The Carroll County Supervised Visitation Center will be open in for in-person visitation and monitored exchanges.

The Register of Wills and Orphans' Court for Carroll County will remain open for in-person business and court hearings.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

2/25/2022

DATE


Fred S. Hecker, Judge
Circuit Court for Carroll County
FRED S. Hecker
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE