

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

IN RE: TEMPORARY LIMITATION ON)
THE TRANSPORTATION OF INMATES)
FROM THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY)
ADULT DETENTION CENTER TO THE)
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE)

ORDER EXTENDING LIMITATION ON IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS

Due to an outbreak of COVID-19 at the Prince William County Adult Detention Center (ADC), the Court entered an Order on May 25, 2020 temporarily suspending in-person hearings in the Circuit Court and District Courts of the Thirty-First Judicial Circuit for inmates incarcerated at the Prince William County ADC. Said Order was effective from May 26, 2020 until June 8, 2020.

It appearing that testing conducted at the ADC since May 26, 2020 has revealed that a significant number of inmates continue be positive for COVID-19; and

It further appearing that public health officials report that Prince William County is presently experiencing one of the highest percent-positivity rates on COVID-19 tests in the Commonwealth; and

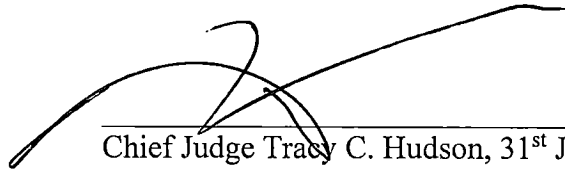
It further appearing that until health and safety protocols to limit the spread of COVID-19 can be fully implemented by the ADC it is necessary to extend the limitation on in-person hearings for individuals incarcerated at the Prince William County ADC in order to protect the health of persons present in the Judicial Center including witnesses, deputy sheriffs, attorneys, courthouse staff and other inmates. Therefore, in accordance with the direction of the Supreme Court of Virginia that the courts of the Commonwealth take "reasonable steps to minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19;" the Court issues the following extending order with the concurrence of the Chief Judges of the District Courts:

Unless otherwise authorized by the presiding judge upon consideration of the totality of the circumstances and on a case-by-case basis, no inmates shall be transported from the Prince William County ADC to the Prince William County Judicial Center for in-person proceedings during the effective period of this Order. Except as may be otherwise ordered, all hearings and trials involving defendants incarcerated at the Prince William County ADC and required to be conducted during the effective period of this Order shall be held by audiovisual means, provided the parties agree to proceed in that format. Alternatively, such matters may be continued for a reasonable period of time to permit the aforementioned measures to be completed.

This Order does not limit or otherwise affect the transportation of inmates from other correctional facilities to the Prince William County Judicial Center.

This order shall be in effect from this date until June 28, 2020 unless sooner dissolved or extended by further order of the Court.

So ordered, this 4th day of June, 2020.



Chief Judge Tracy C. Hudson, 31st Judicial Circuit