

VIRGINIA :

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 31ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SPECIAL CONTINUING ORDER

The Chief Judge of the Circuit Court, being of the opinion that the following measures are necessary and in the public interest, the Governor having declared a state of emergency, and that the same will promote the orderly administration of justice, hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. Subject to further Order of the Court, criminal cases shall continue to be scheduled and heard in accordance with the normal practice.

2. Effective immediately, with the exception of cases having statutory priority, no additional civil hearings, motions or trials shall be scheduled for the period from March 16, 2020 through April 30, 2020. Counsel or parties who believe their case is entitled to statutory priority should communicate the same to the Clerk who will consult with Chambers before setting such matter for hearing.

3. Civil Term Day for April 7, 2020 is cancelled. The Clerk is directed to continue all civil cases presently set on the April 7, 2020 Term Day docket to the May Term Day, May 5, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Criminal Term Day for April 7, 2020 will go forward as scheduled. Agreed trial dates may continue to be set in accordance with normal practice.

4. Civil cases, including trials and motions, without statutory priority scheduled to begin after Wednesday March 18, 2020 will be continued to a date after April 30, 2020. Counsel should contact Chambers to obtain a new date. Counsel or parties who believe their case is entitled to statutory priority should communicate the same to the Clerk who will consult with Chambers before setting such matter for hearing.

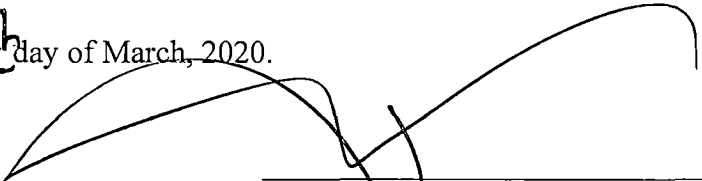
5. The Clerk of Court is hereby given authority to excuse any juror who reports that he or she is experiencing flu-like symptoms, or is under either self-quarantine or mandatory quarantine, or is caring for a family member who is experiencing flu-like symptoms or is under either self-quarantine or mandatory quarantine.

6. Agreed continuance Orders pursuant to the Special Continuing Order entered on March 12, 2020 may be filed with the Clerk by electronic mail at circuitcourt@pwcgov.org. The Clerk shall forward such Orders to Chambers for entry.

7. The Clerk is directed to limit the civil motions that may be scheduled for May 1, 2020 to a reasonable number as determined in her judgment to prevent that docket from becoming overcrowded.

8. There may be further adjustments to the Court's dockets if the public health situation warrants. Any such changes will be communicated by a separate Order.

ENTERED this 13th day of March, 2020.



Tracy C. Hudson, Chief Judge
Circuit Court