

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE ROBERT A. GREENBERG

The Circuit Court for Montgomery County will be a much different place beginning tomorrow, Monday, March 16, 2020. By Order of Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, all courts throughout the state will be closed to the public, except for the disposition of certain matters deemed to be of an essential or emergency nature. Please consult Judge Barbera's March 13 order, posted elsewhere on this website, for a full description of those mandatory matters, specifically paragraph (b)(3).

As the announcement of the Court's closing occurred after business hours on Friday, information as to cancellation of certain events originally scheduled for March 16 may be late in arriving to litigants, expecting their cases to be heard on that day. Erroneous media reports have also led to confusion. There will undoubtedly be uncertainty about the status of cases on Monday among attorneys and litigants, which is not surprising considering the magnitude of this event and the inability of the Court to notify affected persons over the weekend. Hopefully, those people did check back with the Court's website to get the latest information on their case. I apologize for any inconvenience. We anticipate posting information regarding the remaining dockets for the week by close of business tomorrow.

As we streamline this process, our goal is to protect the health and safety of our more than 400 employees who interact with the public on a daily basis. To do this, we must limit access in accord with the "social distancing" model suggested by the Centers for Disease Control and other organizations. We hope to soon be holding more hearings remotely, either by telephone or videoconferencing, and I ask that you continue to monitor this website for further information in the coming days and weeks. We had about 35,000 cases opened in this Courthouse last year. It goes without saying that resolution of most of those cases will now be considerably delayed.

This is new and uncharted territory for the courts throughout the state, especially for those few – like us – who do not have electronic filing (MDEC). Of necessity, we will learn as we go. Please bear with us as we navigate our way through this process; this situation is unprecedented. Your patience is greatly appreciated.

Robert A. Greenberg

Administrative Judge