

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 16, 2020

Circuit Court for Prince George's County  
Public Information Office  
14735 Main Street, Suite M2407  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Informational Advisory:

**The Circuit Court for Prince George's County Announces Soft-Re-opening to the Public beginning on July 20, 2020**

***In-person services will be limited and by appointment only***

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (July 16, 2020) – On Monday, July 20, 2020, the Prince George's County Circuit Court will re-open in a gradual phased approach with limited in-person services by appointment only; so members of the public should not visit the courthouse unless they have been notified by the Court that they have an in-person hearing scheduled on their matter, or an appointment time that has been verified by a particular office or division.

The gradual re-opening will enable the Court to slowly increase the number of citizens and case types in the courthouse, while at the same time monitor that health protocols are being practiced to contain the spread of the Coronavirus.

All visitors will be required to wear face masks or face coverings, have their temperature checked before entering the courthouse and answer pre-screening questions.

The phased approach will consist of the following timeline and may be amended to accommodate changes in the containment of the Coronavirus:

- **Phase Three / July 20, 2020**

The courthouse will gradually re-open to the public, subject to health screenings prior to entry. Some courthouse services will resume **by appointment only**; most proceedings will proceed virtually. Hearing types increase, but scheduling will be staggered to limit the flow of individuals in the courthouse. **Most proceedings will be held virtually.**

- **Phase Four / August 31, 2020**

The court may increase the type of matters that can be heard including contested hearings and bench trials. All dockets will continue to be staggered. Virtual hearings in most case types will continue.

- **Phase Five / October 5, 2020**  
Jury trials may resume. Virtual hearings and staggered dockets will continue.
- **Phase Six / TBD**  
Full operations resume with COVID-19 being identified as contained and no longer impacting court operations.

As part of the re-opening, the Court will strictly enforce health protocols. The use of face masks or face coverings is mandatory for anyone entering any building within the courthouse complex to include the Courthouse, the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Unit located within the County Administration Building (CAB), the Judiciary Administration Services (JAS) building and the Family Justice Center (FJC). Social distancing rules will also be strictly enforced in the courthouse complex. The hallways will be monitored to ensure visitors are following protocol:

- YOU MUST WEAR A MASK OR FACE COVERING WHILE INSIDE
- FOLLOW SOCIAL DISTANCING SIGNS

Court cases can be filed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at the drop box located at the Commissioner Entrance to the courthouse. The drop box is checked regularly during the day, and pleadings will be reviewed and addressed accordingly. Virtual hearings in front of a Judge are scheduled daily. Bond hearings are heard each day. For more information about the Order which addresses matters that shall be heard by the Circuit Court during these reduced operations, you may view the full order [here](#).

For more information and updates, visit our website [here](#) or call 301-952-3655. You may also visit <https://www.mdcourts.gov/coronavirusupdate> for more general information about Maryland Judiciary Coronavirus (COVID-19) updates.

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