

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON CONCLUSION OF
THE VIDEO REMOTE INTERPRETING PILOT PROGRAM AND
EXPANSION OF VIDEO REMOTE INTERPRETING SERVICES

WHEREAS, The Maryland Judiciary is committed to fair, efficient, and effective justice for all persons; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Judiciary is dedicated to increasing access to justice for all persons who come into contact with the Maryland Court system; and

WHEREAS, The Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) pilot program having been implemented, by Administrative Order dated November 30, 2018, in the Circuit Court for Wicomico County and the District Court in Worcester County (Snow Hill/02-04) for six months from December 1, 2018, until May 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, The VRI pilot program having been extended, by the Administrative Order dated June 11, 2019, for an additional 90 days, from June 1, 2019, to August 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, The VRI pilot program having been used to provide interpreter services in the above-described locations, and a written report of the pilot program having been provided to the State Court Administrator by the Access to Justice Department of the Administrative Office of the Courts describing usage experiences and feedback regarding the VRI equipment and services during the pilot program; and

WHEREAS, The Administrative Office of the Courts, under the supervision of the State Court Administrator, having evaluated the results of the pilot program, determined that VRI provides effective and efficient remote translation services, thereby increasing access to Maryland courts for those who speak languages other than English, and having recommended adoption and implementation of VRI services for use where appropriate in courts throughout the State,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and administrative head of the Judicial Branch, pursuant to the authority conferred by Article IV, § 18 of the Maryland Constitution, do this 29th day of August 2019 order as follows:

- (a) the VRI pilot program, as implemented by the Administrative Order of November 30, 2018, and as extended by the Administrative Order of June 11, 2019, shall be and hereby is concluded; and
- (b) the VRI services offered under the pilot program in the Circuit Court for Wicomico County and the District Court in Worcester County (Snow Hill/02-04) are authorized to continue being offered; and
- (c) the State Court Administrator shall proceed with implementation of such VRI systems, supported by policies and procedures developed by the State Court Administrator based upon experience and insight obtained during the pilot program, in jurisdictions around the State that are deemed by the State Court Administrator to be appropriate for VRI systems; and
- (d) the Administrative Order of November 30, 2018, implementing the VRI pilot program, and the Administrative Order of June 11, 2019, extending the VRI pilot program, shall both be, and hereby are, rescinded, effective immediately.

/s/ Mary Ellen Barbera
Mary Ellen Barbera
Chief Judge
Court of Appeals of Maryland

Filed: August 29, 2019

/s/ Suzanne C. Johnson
Suzanne C. Johnson
Clerk
Court of Appeals of Maryland

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Suzanne C. Johnson, Clerk