

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

EARLY RELEASE FOR HOLIDAYS

WHEREAS, local governments and other units of State government frequently allow their employees to leave early before the Christmas or New Year's holiday, thereby causing confusion as to court closings, especially where Judicial Branch employees are located in buildings where employees of a local government or another unit of State government also work; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the public and counsel, court calendars and court business generally are not heavy on those days; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to ensure that the courts are open for business; and

WHEREAS, it would be helpful to have formal policies authorizing early release of some, but not all, Judicial Branch personnel; and

WHEREAS, such personnel policies should comport with the following order;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Robert M. Bell, 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 hereby order that the Court of Appeals of Maryland, the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland, the Circuit Courts for Baltimore City and the Counties, the District Court of Maryland, the Orphans' Courts, the offices of the Clerks of Courts, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the court-related agencies shall remain open with at least minimal staff as prescribed by the section of the Judiciary's published procedures for early release on non-emergency situations, after 2 p.m. in the afternoon preceding the day observed for December 25th and January 1st or, if those holidays are observed on Monday, after 2 p.m. in the afternoon of the preceding Friday.

/s/ Robert M. Bell
Chief Judge

Filed: August 7, 1998
/s/ Alexander L. Cummings
Clerk
Court of Appeals of Maryland