

CIRCUIT COURT FOR DORCHESTER COUNTY
Press Release

July 20, 2020

Pursuant to the Amended Administrative Order of the Chief Judge for the Court of Appeals dated June 3, 2020, <https://mdcourts.gov/sites/default/files/admin-orders/20200603amendedprogressiveresumptionoffullfunctionofjudiciaryoperations.pdf>, the Circuit Court for Dorchester County Court House, Clerk's Office and Register of Wills are open to the public as of July 20, 2020.

Dorchester County is continuing to implement best practices by limiting exposure and risk to its personnel and its users. As such, **court entry is still by appointment/ hearing notice/ summons only**. Please call **410-228-0481** to make an appointment with the Clerk's Office if you need to file paperwork as we are limiting persons to one customer/ household/ case at a time.

Dorchester has been on MDEC (Odyssey) since December 19, 2016. Therefore, attorneys must continue to use the online MDEC portal for judicial filings. Filings for land records recordings should continue to use Simplifile. For self-represented parties who have not registered as a user in MDEC (optional), please continue to file and record the safest way through the United States Postal Service, UPS, Federal Express or other overnight carrier.

A drop box is available at the front of the Court House between 8:30 am - 4:30 pm for filings and Jury paperwork. Please make sure your name and telephone number are on the paperwork for questions if necessary. You may also contact the Clerk's Office M-F by telephone at **410-228-0481** between 8:30 am - 4:30 pm for any questions concerning Court operations. You can also access the daily docket online at www.mdcourts.gov/clerks/dorchester/dockets - Daily Docket. The next day's docket is posted by 4:30 p.m. each business day.

If you would like to **request a video conference/ hearing** for your case in which you **already have a scheduled date**, please contact the court as soon as possible to make that request. We will try to accommodate all requests if permissible and feasible:

If a **Family or Juvenile case**, please call **410-228-1395**.

If a **Truancy** case, please call **410-548-7107**.

If a **Criminal, Civil, Guardianship or other case type**, please call **410-228-6300**.

Jury trials will not resume until, at the earliest, **October 5, 2020**. Please continue to call the Jury Commissioner at **410-228-9840** for questions and use the drop box or mail any documentation required.

For the **Register of Wills**, please call **410-228-4181**.

Please **always check** the **Circuit Court for Dorchester County's website** for updated Orders, information, screening and press releases prior to coming to court: <https://mdcourts.gov/circuit/dorchester>

The response to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and the information above may change as a result. Copies of pertinent court orders and statewide updates are available at www.mdcourts.gov.

Thank you for doing your part to keep yourself and others safe.