

By Order of Court of Appeals the District Court Shall Enter a Phased Return to Court Operations¹

The District Court for Howard County and the District Court for Carroll County Courthouses are closed to the public, with limited exceptions.

- Limited employees are permitted in these facilities, based on social distancing requirements.
- ANY PERSON who seeks entrance shall be:
 - (1) subject to COVID-19 screening questions,
 - (2) subject to non-contact temperature checks where available,
 - (3) required to wear face masks or coverings, at all times unless directed otherwise and
 - (4) required to maintain social distancing.

FILING:

The District Court Clerk's Office is open to the public affective July 20, 2020. A locked box is available for District Court filings and payment and at the Howard County Courthouse lobby in Ellicott City and the Carroll County District Court lobby in Westminster. The box will be emptied hourly from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. A time/date stamp is available upon request.

PAYMENTS FOR CITATIONS may be made on-line at any hour by drop box with exact change or check.

PHASE 3 MATTERS:

- o The District Court will continue to handle all matters outlined in Phase 2 including bail reconsiderations, preliminary hearings, fugitive matters, quarantine and isolation violations, protective orders, peace orders, extreme risk protective orders, body attachments, emergency evaluations, and hearings on emergency motions.
- o The Mental Health Court and Drug Court has resumed in person proceedings to the extent practicable.
- o The District Court will continue to review and rule on bench warrants, body attachments, and will begin to process a variety of motions in chambers, granting hearings where appropriate.
- o The District Court will continue to review search warrants.
- o The District Court will hear emergency breach of lease matters involving threats of injury to people or property, emergency wrongful detainer actions, and associated warrants of restitution.
- o As Phase 3 progresses, the District Court will begin to identify, schedule, and hear any other matters that can be scheduled, heard or resolved given the social distancing requirements, and may consider matters from Phase 4 including:
 - Parking Citations
 - Speed Camera Citations
 - Other Civil Citations
 - Minor Traffic
 - * Red Light Citations
 - * School Bus Citations
 - * Civil Matters
 - * Some Criminal Matters
- o **ALL OTHER PROCEEDINGS ARE CONTINUED.**

The Commissioner's office is OPEN 24 hours each day for the following:

Initial appearance and advice of rights	Applications for criminal charges
Posting Bail	Bench warrant satisfactions
Domestic Violence Protective Order Petition	Peace Order Petition
Extreme Risk Protective Order Petition	Emergency Evaluation Petition

Call the Clerk's office in Howard at (410) 480-7700 and in Carroll at 410 871-3500 for additional information. You can also find information at www.mdcourts.gov. Orders are available at <https://mdcourts.gov/coronavirusorders>

Pamila J. Brown , Administrative Judge, Tenth District Court of Maryland

¹ Phases are described in the Chief Judge Barbera's *Amended Administrative Order On the Progressive Resumption of Full Function of Judiciary Operations Previously Restricted Due to the COVID-19 Emergency*, dated June 3, 2020.