

**IN THE
CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY**

Administrative Order No. 2020-09

WHEREAS the world and its many governments are responding to a novel coronavirus (“SARS-CoV-2”) which causes a new disease (“COVID-19”);

WHEREAS on March 5, 2020, the Governor declared “that a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency exists within the entire state of Maryland;”

WHEREAS on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced that the spread of COVID-19 qualified as a pandemic;

WHEREAS on March 12, 2020, the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals issued an Order suspending non-essential judicial activities in Maryland’s courts, and on March 16, 2020 restricted courts to emergency operations;

WHEREAS it is imperative to protect the health and safety of litigants, citizens, employees, attorneys, magistrates, and judges during emergency operations;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-105(b), it is this 26th day of May, 2020 hereby:

ORDERED that the following persons shall not enter the Mitchell Courthouse, 100 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, the Cummings Courthouse (formerly known as Courthouse East), 111 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, or the Judiciary’s section of the Juvenile Justice Center, 300 North Gay Street Baltimore, MD 21202 (“courthouses”), without prior permission of the Administrative Judge:

- Persons who have been to any region for which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Level 3 Travel Health Notice, such as China, South Korea, Japan, Italy, Iran, Egypt, or Europe, within the last fourteen (14) days;
- Persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has been to a region for which the CDC has issued a Level 3 Travel Health Notice within the last fourteen (14) days;
- Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine or self-isolate by any doctor, hospital, or health agency within the last fourteen (14) days;
- Persons who have been diagnosed with, or have had close contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last fourteen (14) days;
- Persons who are experiencing any of the following COVID-19 symptoms in the last seven (7) days: fever or chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or any other flu like symptoms; and it is further

ORDERED that all individuals entering the courthouses shall be subject to health screening as appropriate to determine if any are exhibiting apparent symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever or chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or any other flu like symptoms; and it is further

ORDERED that before any individual is admitted entry to the courthouses he or she shall consent to a thermal thermometer check conducted by the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office; and it is further

ORDERED that any individual who declines to consent to the thermal thermometer check, or is detected to have a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher shall be barred entry to the courthouses; and it is further

ORDERED that all persons entering the courthouses shall maintain a social distance of six (6) feet from each other while in the buildings; and it is further

ORDERED that all individuals, without exception, while travelling within the courthouses shall wear a mask or face covering. The mask or face covering must completely conceal the wearer's nose and mouth; and it is further

ORDERED that individuals who are asymptomatic, while working alone and not sharing an indoor environment such as an office space with another, may remove their mask or face covering while in said office space; and it is further

ORDERED that no person may ride on an elevator containing other persons, unless all persons are wearing a face mask, scarf, or other face covering; and it is further

ORDERED that the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office is authorized to deny admission or remove any person from the courthouses who is not in compliance with any of the terms of this Administrative Order; and it is further

ORDERED that the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office shall post this Administrative Order on the doors or within a reasonable area of the doorways and entrances of the courthouses; and it is further

ORDERED that if you are scheduled or required to appear in one of the courthouses, and you are unable to appear because of the restrictions in this Administrative Order, you are directed to proceed as follows:

- If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney;
- If you are an attorney and you are scheduled to appear before a judge, please contact the judge's chambers directly;

- If you are unrepresented and you are scheduled to appear before a judge, please contact the judge's chamber, or the Civil Assignment Office at 410-333-3755, or the Criminal Clerk's Office at 410-333-3750, or the Family Division Assignment Office at 410-209-6366, or the Juvenile Division Clerk's Office at 443-263-6359, or the Orphans' Court for Baltimore City at 410-752-5131;
- If you are a witness, please contact the office or individual who requested your appearance in court;
- If you are scheduled to report to the Pretrial Services Office, contact them at 410-986-5900 or 443-984-1857;
- If you are to report to the Community Service Office, please contact the Office at 410-396-1191; and it is further

ORDERED that the restrictions in this Administrative Order shall remain in place indefinitely, pending further Order of this Court; and it is further

ORDERED that Administrative Order No. 2020-06 is **SUPERSEDED**.

/s/
Audrey J.S. Carrión, Administrative Judge
Circuit Court for Baltimore City

CC:

Judges and Magistrates of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City
Orphans' Court for Baltimore City
Marilyn Bentley, Clerk, Circuit Court for Baltimore City
Lionel Moore, Court Administrator, Circuit Court for Baltimore City
Office of the Register of Wills for Baltimore City
Michele McDonald, Chief Counsel, Courts and Judicial Affairs Division, Office of the Attorney General
Mark Weisner, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Byron Monts, IT Manager, Circuit Court for Baltimore City
Kirstin Downs, Esq., Office of the Public Defender

Camille Blake-Fall, Esq. Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City
Wilhelm Joseph, Esq., Executive Director, Maryland Legal Aid
Dana Moore, Esq., Acting City Solicitor
Nadine Maeser, Office of Governmental Relations and Public Affairs
Terri Charles, Office of Government Relations and Public Affairs
Joseph Bennett, Bar Librarian, Baltimore Bar Library
Dr. Lawrence Heller, PhD., Chief Medical Officer, Medical Services Department
Robert Weisengoff, Executive Director, Pretrial Services
Bar Association of Baltimore City
Maryland State Bar Association
Monumental City Bar Association
Women's Bar Association
The Alliance of Black Women Attorneys
LGBTQ Bar Association
Women's Law Center
Maryland Hispanic Bar Association
Simon E. Sobeloff Law Society
South Asian Bar Association
Maryland Criminal Defense Bar
Maryland Association for Justice
Maryland Defense Counsel, Inc.