

**IN THE
CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY**

Administrative Order No. 2020-12

WHEREAS, due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and consistent with guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Maryland Department of Health, an emergency exists that poses a threat of harm to individuals in Maryland who seek to enter a court or judicial facility and come into contact with personnel; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 emergency has continued, with public health strategies appearing to have been effective in reducing the transmission rate in Maryland and such restrictions gradually having been lessened, the resumption of certain judicial functions became possible, with the implementation of safeguards as advised by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Maryland Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2020, the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals issued a Second Amended Administrative Order on the Progressive Resumption of Full Function of Judiciary Operations Previously Restricted Due to the COVID-19 Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals found that remote proceedings have proved to be useful and effective in facilitating the courts' performance of core functions during the COVID-19 emergency and will continue to be necessary; and

WHEREAS, all hearings held before the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, whether a physical in-person hearing or a remote hearing using telephone or video technology remain a formal and serious setting where matters involving real people and real lives are heard,

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-105(b), it is this 29th day of October, 2020 hereby:

ORDERED that effective immediately all participants in remote hearings before the Circuit Court for Baltimore City shall adhere to the following rules of court decorum:

1. Participants shall be on time and follow remote hearing platform directions.
2. Participants shall dress appropriately for a formal court environment.
3. Participants shall ensure that distractions are not present, such as driving.
4. Participants shall not interrupt others when they are speaking nor attempt to speak over others.
5. Participants shall be respectful and courteous.
6. Participants shall refrain from eating and/or smoking.
7. Participants shall not be permitted to use or access their phones while participating in a video-conference remote hearing unless permitted to do so by the presiding judge or magistrate.
8. Participants shall not take screen captures, screenshots, photographs, videos or make other electronic recordings of the proceeding or other participants.

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

CC:

Judges and Magistrates of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City
Senior Judges, 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
Melissa Monroe, Jury Commissioner, 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
Trish Trikeriotis, Court Reporter, 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.