

**IN THE
CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY
Administrative Order No. 2025-37**

This Order is intended to address the unprecedented influx of cases filed in recent weeks and months under the Maryland Child Victims Act of 2023 (“CVA”).¹ More than one thousand, two hundred and fifty (1,250) civil actions detailing allegations of child sexual abuse have been filed in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City as of the date of this Order.

This Order imposes a temporary stay on those CVA cases. This Order does not terminate or dispose of any CVA cases, nor does it bar parties who have yet to file their actions under the CVA from filing new claims. The decision to stay these cases is in large part due to ongoing discussions about possible ways to manage these cases collectively for pretrial and discovery purposes. In reaching the decision to temporarily stay these cases, the Court has weighed the understandable desire of parties to proceed with litigating these cases as well as the need for consistency, efficiency, and fairness.

The Court further elaborates on the terms of this temporary stay below.

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2023, the CVA went into effect, eliminating the statute of limitations for civil claims of child sexual abuse in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, since the CVA went into effect, hundreds of civil actions stemming from alleged child sexual abuse (“CVA cases”)² have been filed in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City (the “Court”); and

¹ The Child Victims Act is codified as Md. Code, Courts & Judicial Proceedings § 5-117.

² For purposes of this order, the term “CVA cases” is defined to include all civil tort actions filed on or after October 1, 2023 against any defendant which allege child sexual abuse pursuant to Md. Code, Courts & Judicial Proceedings § 5-117. This includes cases currently pending and cases filed after the issuance of this order, until further order of this Court.

WHEREAS, this Order applies to all CVA cases filed in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City on or after October 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland General Assembly recently enacted certain changes to the Child Victims Act, which went into effect on June 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, in the weeks and months leading up to June 1, 2025, there was a significant uptick of cases filed under the CVA in this Court; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Judiciary’s Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Rules Committee”) is considering recommending changes to the Maryland Rules to the Supreme Court of Maryland in order to establish a clear process for the circuit courts to efficiently manage the high volume of similarly situated CVA cases; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interests of all parties that the CVA cases are processed through the judicial system in a consistent, just, fair, and intentional manner; and

WHEREAS, with this objective in mind, this Court finds it advisable to wait for further guidance from the Rules Committee and the Supreme Court of Maryland before any further developments³ take place in any of the CVA cases before this Court; and

WHEREAS, courts have the “inherent power to stay proceedings before them”⁴; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-105, the Administrative Judge is responsible for the “supervision...of cases filed in the court”; “preparation of a case management plan for the court”; “implementation and enforcement of all administrative policies, rules, orders, and directives of the Supreme Court”; and “performance of any other administrative duties necessary

³ This includes but is not limited to the tolling of deadlines, scheduling of hearings and trials, filing of papers, and disposition of cases.

⁴ Moser v. Heffington, 465 Md. 381, 398 (2019) (citing Dodson v. Temple Hill Baptist Church, Inc., 254 Md. 541, 546 (1969); Waters v. Smith, 27 Md. App. 642, 651–52 (1975)).

to the effective administration of the internal management of the court and the prompt disposition of litigation in it”; it is this 2nd day of June, 2025, hereby

ORDERED that, while this Court awaits further guidance from the Rules Committee and the Supreme Court of Maryland as to how the CVA cases should be managed, all CVA cases⁵ in this Court are hereby **STAYED** until further order of this Court; and it is further

ORDERED that, the time to file an answer to, move against, or otherwise respond to a CVA complaint is hereby suspended until further order of this Court; and it is further

ORDERED that, the time to respond to any discovery demands in a CVA case is hereby suspended until further order of this Court. No demands for discovery shall be served by any party until further order of this Court; and it is further

ORDERED that, this stay shall not be construed to bar new CVA cases from being filed; and it is further

ORDERED that, for all future CVA cases filed in this Court, the caption of each complaint shall clearly note that the action is being filed under the Child Victims Act;⁶ and it is further

ORDERED that, this stay shall not be construed to bar parties from filing motions to proceed anonymously or under pseudonyms; and it is further

ORDERED that, plaintiffs’ time to respond to requests for production of identifying information, consisting of a plaintiff’s name (including maiden name, if any), date of birth, social security number, parents’ and/or guardians’ names, current address, and address at the time of the alleged abuse is hereby suspended until further order of this Court. Nothing in this Order

⁵ See Note 2.

⁶ See Exhibit 1 for an example of this notation.

prevents a plaintiff from voluntarily providing such identifying information at any time; and it is further

ORDERED that, this Order does not affect the stay issued in the *In re: Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore* matter that is pending before the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland (Case No. 23-16969-MMH); and it is further

ORDERED that, the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City shall docket this Administrative Order in all CVA cases, including those listed in the attached Exhibit 2, and shall docket this Order in each future CVA case that is filed until directed otherwise by further order of this Court.

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

CLERK TO SEND COPIES TO:

All counsel of record in CVA cases pending before the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

COPIES SENT ELECTRONICALLY TO:

The Honorable Matthew J. Fader, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland

The Honorable John S. Nugent, Judge in Charge of the Civil Division

The Honorable Yvette M. Bryant, Chair of the Rules Committee

The Honorable Michelle Harner, U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland

All Judges and Magistrates, Circuit Court for Baltimore City

Xavier A. Conaway, Clerk, Circuit Court for Baltimore City

Nicholas Cavey, Public Information Officer, Maryland Judiciary

Terri Charles, Deputy Public Information Officer, Maryland Judiciary

Raphael J. Santini, Esq., President
Maryland State Bar Association

The Honorable Teresa Epps Cummings, President
Baltimore City Bar Association

Gwen-Marie Davis, Esq., President
Maryland Association for Justice

Amy E. Askew, Esq., President
Maryland Defense Counsel, Inc.