

**IN THE
CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY
Administrative Order No. 2026-04**

Ordering Magistrates to Wear Black Judicial Robes During On-The-Record Proceedings

WHEREAS, Maryland Rules 16-104 and 16-105 grant the Administrative Judge the responsibility for the overall administration of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City (“Court”); and

WHEREAS, this Order applies to all Court facilities—the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse, the Elijah E. Cummings Courthouse, and the Juvenile Justice Center; and

WHEREAS, the April 2026 Report and Recommendations of the Magistrate Study Workgroup recommends that magistrates wear black judicial robes; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a requirement for magistrates to wear black judicial robes during all on-the-record proceedings provides uniformity, professionalism, and public recognition of the judicial work performed by magistrates; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a uniform practice regarding judicial attire for Court magistrates will provide consistency across all Court facilities and proceedings while underscoring the solemnity of judicial processes;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby **ORDERED** this 24th day of July 2026 that effective September 1, 2026, all Court magistrates shall wear black judicial robes while presiding over any on-the-record proceeding conducted in person, by remote electronic means, or in a hybrid format; and it is further

ORDERED, that for purposes of this Order, “on-the-record proceedings” involve all proceedings in which a verbatim record is created by a court reporter, electronic recordings, or any

other officially authorized means regardless of the nature of the proceeding or the location for which it is conducted; and it is further

ORDERED, that the Administrative Judge, or the Administrative Judge designee, may authorize a temporary exception to this requirement for good cause shown, under emergency circumstances, or other extraordinary situations that make compliance impracticable.

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

CLERK TO SEND COPIES TO:

All judges and magistrates of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City

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