IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON
STATEWIDE CLOSING OF THE COURTS TO THE PUBLIC
DUE TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Maryland Constitution, Article IV § 18, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is granted authority as the administrative head of the Judicial Branch of the State; and

WHEREAS, In instances of emergency conditions, whether natural or otherwise, that significantly disrupt access to or the operations of one or more courts or other judicial facilities of the State or the ability of the Judiciary to operate effectively, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals may be required to determine the extent to which court operations or judicial functions shall continue; and

WHEREAS, Due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and consistent with guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control, an emergency exists that poses a threat of imminent and potentially lethal harm to individuals who come into contact with a court or judicial facility and personnel; and

WHEREAS, To the extent possible, the courts and judicial offices and units have remained operational and provided scheduled and required events while balancing the health and safety needs of court visitors and personnel during the early stage of this emergency; and

WHEREAS, Escalation of the emergency now requires further measures to protect the health and safety of Maryland residents and Judiciary personnel,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and administrative head of the Judicial Branch, pursuant to the authority conferred by Article IV, § 18 of the Maryland Constitution, do hereby order this 13th day of March, 2020, as follows:

(a) All courts in the Maryland Judiciary, court offices, administrative offices, units of the Judiciary, and the Offices of the Clerks of the Circuit Courts shall be closed to the public on an emergency basis, effective March 16, 2020; however, Judiciary operations shall continue to the extent practicable. Maryland Judiciary personnel shall report as scheduled, unless otherwise excused by their administrative head.

(b) The following mandatory matters shall continue to be scheduled and heard in keeping with the urgency of those matters and consistent with statutory requirements, either in person or remotely pursuant to the Administrative Order on Remote Electronic Participation in Judicial Proceedings, June 18, 2018, with the court to notify all participants necessary to the proceeding:

(1) In the Court of Appeals:

(A) certain election law matters

(B) certain petitions for Writs of Mandamus

(C) certain certified questions of law

(D) quarantine and isolation matters

(2) In the Court of Special Appeals:

(A) requests for injunctive relief pending appeal

(B) appeals in cases in which a lack of action would result in a dispositive outcome

(C) appeals from quarantine and isolation petitions

(3) In the Circuit Courts:

(A) bail reviews

(B) arraignments

(C) emergency Habeas Corpus petitions

(D) juvenile detention hearings

(E) CINA shelter care and adjudication on shelter care

(F) emergency delinquency

(G) domestic violence protective petitions

(H) appeals from peace orders

(I) family law emergencies including petitions for guardianship

(J) temporary restraining orders

(K) emergency evaluation petitions

(L) quarantine and isolation petitions

(M) extradition cases

(N) Rule 4-271 determinations (*Hicks*)

(O) search warrants

(P) body attachments

(Q) contempt

(4) In the District Court:

(A) bail reviews

(B) emergency evaluation petitions

(C) emergency risk protective order petitions

(D) domestic violence protective petitions

(E) peace order petitions

(F) quarantine and isolation violations

(G) initial appearances

(H) search warrants

(I) applications for statement of charges

(J) acceptance of bail bonds

(K) bench warrant satisfactions

(L) body attachments

(M) contempt

(c) To the extent that an individual court has the capacity to hear additional matters, this Administrative Order does not prohibit such proceedings, with access to members of the public as justice requires. Courts shall notify all participants to the proceeding if a matter will proceed.

(d) This Administrative Order does not affect the courts' consideration or resolution of matters that can be addressed without a proceeding that involves testimony or argument.

(e) All other matters scheduled to be heard between March 16, 2020, through April 3, 2020, are postponed pending further order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

(f) Court personnel will be available by telephone and mail and paper filings will be received. MDEC continues to be available for electronic filings.

(g) To the extent this Administrative Order conflicts with any other extant administrative order, whether local or statewide, this Administrative Order shall prevail.

(h) This Administrative Order will be revised as circumstances warrant.

/s/ Mary Ellen Barbera
Mary Ellen Barbera
Chief Judge
Court of Appeals of Maryland

Filed: March 13, 2020

/s/ Suzanne C. Johnson
Suzanne C. Johnson
Clerk
Court of Appeals of Maryland

Pursuant to Maryland Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act
(§§ 10-1601 et seq. of the State Government Article) this document is authentic.

2020-03-16 08:04-04:00

Suzanne C. Johnson, Clerk