

# **Courthouse FAQs – From City Attorney’s Office**

## **Federal Court/United States District Court Eastern District of Virginia**

- All non-case related outside events, tours, and other gatherings in the courthouse are suspended.
- All naturalization ceremonies for the remainder of March 2020 are postponed. *Please contact the United States Customs and Immigration Services office for additional inquiries online or through their contact center at 800-375-5283.*
- All civil, criminal, misdemeanor traffic and petty offense dockets scheduled from March 16, 2020 to April 30, 2020 are continued unless the presiding judge issues an order directing that a particular proceeding be held on or before March 31, 2020. *Contact the Clerk’s Office of your respective divisions for continuance dates.*
- The time period from March 17, 2020 through March 31, 2020 is excluded from the thirty day time period for filing an indictment or information, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3161(b) and (h)(7) due to the unavailability of a grand jury.

## **Virginia State Courts/District and Circuit Courts**

- Only emergency matters will be heard. All civil, traffic and criminal matters are continued. *Call your respective Clerk’s Office for continuance dates.*
- For any matter that is not continued, including emergency hearings, courtroom attendance shall be limited to the attorneys, parties, necessary parties, and members of press. Parties are encouraged to use telephonic or video technology for all necessary hearings if such is available.
- All judicial deadlines are extended, pursuant to Va. Code § 17.1-330(D) for a period of twenty-one (21) days.
- All ceremonies are continued.
- New juror orientations are suspended.

Although Court proceedings are continued through March 31, 2020, Virginia state courthouses and Clerks’ Offices remain open at this time to receive filings and handle critical or emergency matters.

Anyone experiencing illness or who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or instructed to self-quarantine or who is caring for anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 and/or instructed to self-quarantine WILL NOT be permitted into the courthouse or its facilities.

### **What do I do if I cannot reach my attorney and my case is not the type that has not been continued by the court?**

You should call the Circuit Court Clerk’s Office and ask the Clerk how you can bring this matter to the attention of the judge. If you cannot reach the Clerk in advance of your hearing date, you should show up at the appointed time of your hearing or trial. At that time, you can ask the judge for a continuance and time to get another attorney, if your attorney still has not been in contact with you.

The Hopewell Circuit Clerk’s telephone number is: [\(804\) 541-2239](tel:8045412239).

The General District and Juvenile Domestic Courts’ telephone number is (804) 541-2237.

### **How will I know what my new hearing date is?**

The clerk's office will mail out notices with a new court date to all parties. If the address on your warrant/summons is incorrect, you need to notify the clerk's office, in writing, so that your notice will go to your correct address:

Hopewell Circuit Clerk's Office  
100 E. Broadway  
Room 251  
Hopewell, VA 23860-2715  
(804) 541-2239

Hopewell General District and  
Juvenile Domestic Clerk's Office  
100 E. Broadway  
# B  
Hopewell, VA 23860-2715  
(804) 541-2237

### **What if I have a scheduled court case against the City of Hopewell?**

Any cases involving the City of Hopewell that are scheduled for trial or hearing during the time period that the courts are continuing cases due to the COVID-19 crisis, will be postponed. The City Attorney or your attorney, if you have counsel, will reach out to you with a new date when the court resumes hearing cases.