

IN THE
CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY

Administrative Order No. 2020-13

WHEREAS, due to the outbreak of the 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, as the COVID-19 emergency continued, 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 November 12, 2020, the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals issued a Fifth Administrative Order Restricting Statewide Judiciary Operations Due To The COVID-19 Emergency, in response to positivity rates that appear to have significant upward trajectories; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 positivity rates for the State of Maryland exceed 9.0%. and the rates for Baltimore City exceed 5.0%. The Governor of the State of Maryland and the Mayor of the City of Baltimore have imposed new restrictions on the operations of businesses, and there is an increase in the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, two-way live video remote proceedings are useful and effective in protecting the wellbeing of those who have matters before the Circuit Court for Baltimore City while protecting the essence of a defendant's right to confront witnesses absent a physical face-to-face

confrontation and the reliability of the testimony is assured given the quality of the video technology now in existence; it is hereby

ORDERED, that in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public, employees, to address wellness concerns raised by members of the Bar and to resolve matters efficiently, effective Tuesday, December 1, 2020, all pretrial hearings scheduled before the Criminal Division of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, shall be held remotely using two-way live video technology; it is further

ORDERED, that this Administrative Order shall remain in effect until rescinded by the undersigned.

Date: November 23, 2020

/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
Kathy Smith, Assistant Attorney General, 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.