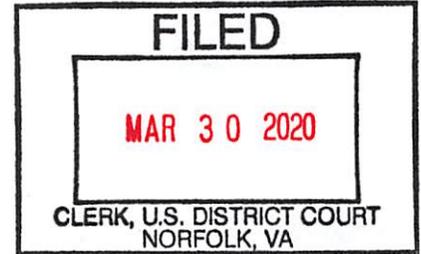


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA



In re:

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY THE OUTBREAK
OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19):
DESIGNATION OF THE U.S. COURTHOUSE IN
NEWPORT NEWS AS THE DISTRICT'S EMERGENCY
JUDICIAL CENTER

Case No. 2:20mc7

General Order No. 2020-10

As detailed in its prior General Orders, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia is closely monitoring the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). In light of the developing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and various other levels and branches of government, as well as the rapidly accelerating number of confirmed COVID-19 cases within this District and the closing of various courthouses across the country, at least temporarily, due to the need to sanitize such courthouses resulting from the entry by an employee or visitor that has tested positive for COVID-19, and after careful consultation with appropriate stakeholders, this Court has determined that it is necessary to designate the U.S. Courthouse in Newport News as the "Emergency Judicial Center" (EJC) for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Although proceedings normally occur before judges in the U.S. Courthouse in Newport News almost every day of the week,

given that the number of civil and criminal in-person proceedings in this District has been greatly reduced by necessity and in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the temporary repurposing of the U.S. Courthouse in Newport News in order for such Courthouse to serve as the EJC will not result in any reduction in the Court's ability to maintain current operations and conduct proceedings in compliance with the aforementioned General Orders. As the EJC for the District, the U.S. Courthouse in Newport News will be sanitized and preserved for safe use, in order to serve as a "last resort" location for Court proceedings or other Court directed emergency functions, to be activated if, and only if, all other Courthouses (Alexandria, Norfolk, and Richmond) are rendered unusable at the same time.

As such, it is hereby **ORDERED** that, beginning on April 1, 2020, and until further order by this Court, the U.S. Courthouse in Newport News will be closed to the public and to all employees, unless activated for EJC proceedings. No proceedings or other official business will be conducted at such location during the closure, except for the EJC purposes described above, with all of the business of the U.S. Courthouse in Newport News to be serviced at the Walter E. Hoffman United States Courthouse in Norfolk.

The employees of the Court shall take all appropriate steps necessary to ensure that the U.S. Courthouse in Newport News is prepared to function as the EJC as well as those steps necessary

to ensure that the ongoing business of the U.S. Courthouse in Newport News can be effectively transferred to, and serviced by, the Walter E. Hoffman United States Courthouse in Norfolk. Additionally, the attached Public Notice shall be posted outside of the U.S. Courthouse in Newport News on April 1, 2020, replacing the Public Notice previously posted pursuant to General Order 2020-07.

It is so ORDERED.

/s/ 

Mark S. Davis
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Norfolk, Virginia
March 30, 2020



U.S. Courthouse in Newport News Access Notice regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the U.S. Courthouse in Newport News has been designated as the “Emergency Judicial Center” (EJC) for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. As such, it is hereby ORDERED that, beginning on April 1, 2020, and until further order by this Court, the U.S. Courthouse in Newport News will be CLOSED to the public and employees, unless activated for EJC proceedings, with the business of the U.S. Courthouse in Newport News to be serviced in the Walter E. Hoffman United States Courthouse in Norfolk (located at 600 Granby St., Norfolk, VA 23510) during the time that the U.S. Courthouse in Newport News is closed.

If you believe that you are scheduled to appear at the U.S. Courthouse in Newport News and are unable to do so because of this Order, you are directed to proceed as follows:

- If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney;

- If you are an attorney and are scheduled to appear in court before a judge, please contact that chambers directly;
- If you are scheduled to meet with a Pretrial Services Officer, please contact Pretrial Services at (757) 222-7400;
- If you are scheduled to meet with a Probation Officer, please contact the Probation Office at (757) 222-7300;
- If you are a juror, please contact the Jury Department at (757) 222-7200;
- For Bankruptcy matters, please contact the Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office at (757) 222-7500;
- For District Court matters, please contact the District Court Clerk's Office at (757) 222-7201 for civil matters and at (757) 222-7202 for criminal matters; and
- For U.S. Court of Appeals matters, please contact Patricia S. Connor, Clerk of Court at (804) 916-2700.

These restrictions will remain in place temporarily until it is determined to be safe to remove them. Any person who thinks that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

It is so ORDERED.

/s/ 

Mark S. Davis

CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Norfolk, Virginia
March 30, 2020