

Informational Bulletin from Virginia Sheriffs' Association
Re: EVICTIONS EFFECTIVE AUGUST 10, 2020

In a 4-3 decision, the Supreme Court of Virginia has ordered the following: "Effective August 10 through September 7, 2020 (pursuant to Va. Code sec. 17.1-330 Declaration of judicial emergency), the issuance of writs of eviction pursuant to unlawful detainer actions is suspended and continued. However, this suspension and continuation shall not apply to writs of eviction in unlawful detainer actions that are unrelated to the failure to pay rent."

While this language suspends the issuance of any new evictions, it does not suspend the execution of any pending evictions. If your deputies are involved in pending evictions due to the inability to pay rent, tenants should be told they may have cause to make a motion to the General District Court to stay the execution their eviction based on this new Supreme Court of Virginia order. For further information, tenants should contact their attorney or local Legal Aid Society.

This advice is adapted from the Fairfax Sheriff's website and is endorsed by the Virginia Sheriffs' Association. All Sheriffs should check with the local Chief Judge of the General District Court to ensure that the above complies with that Judge's interpretation of the Supreme Court's ruling.