

## Fairfax County GDC – Phased Reopening Begins May 18, 2020 with Civil Trials and Small Claims

Following consultation with the Fairfax County Department of Health and upon extensive study and discussion, the Fairfax County General District Court will open to a limited number of “non-emergency” cases beginning May 18, 2020. See [May 6, 2020 Order of the Supreme Court of Virginia](#).

The plan follows Social Distance guidelines which include limited numbers of individuals in each courtroom, people remaining at least 6 feet apart from one another, and the wearing of masks or face coverings. Court dockets will be “segmented”, further limiting the number of people in each courtroom. Visitors to the courthouse are strongly encouraged to wear masks or face coverings and will be required to do so in the courtroom. (Please bring your own)

Civil Trial dockets will resume beginning May 18, 2020 and will be segmented into morning (9:30) and afternoon dockets (1:00). Small Claims will again be heard on Fridays beginning May 22, 2020 and will be segmented into morning and afternoon dockets. The Civil Returns docket will be reinstated beginning May 27, 2020 with dockets at 10:00, 10:45, 11:30, 1:00, 1:45, 2:30 and 3:15. Emergency motions will be heard during the 9:45 segment with all other motions to be scheduled for the 3:15 time slot.

For new filings to be accepted by the Clerk’s Office, all plaintiff’s attorneys and pro se filers **must email [GDCMail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:GDCMail@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call the Clerk’s Office at 703-246-3012** to be assigned an available date and time for their filing(s). The Clerk’s Office also needs an exact count of the cases that will be filed. After obtaining a date/time for your filing, you cannot increase your case count. If a document is filed without calling for an approved segmented docket date/time, it will be returned and cause you delay.

Once you obtain a date/time for your filing, it will be held for you on the court’s calendar. The Clerk’s Office processes filings when they are received. **They are not held** to make sure they are not sent out for service more than 60 days in advance of the court date, so please factor that into when filings are submitted.

**No new garnishments, writs of eviction, or writs of fieri facias can be filed until June 8, 2020.**

At this juncture continuance requests related to COVID-19 will be liberally granted. In addition, as the court tries to be flexible in these times, litigants and/or counsel may arrange to participate remotely by telephone. Procedures for remote participation by video are being established. In order to arrange such a hearing or to request a continuance of your case, please email the clerk at [GDCMail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:GDCMail@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call the Civil Division at 703-246-3012.

You can learn more on our [Policies page](#).

THE FOLLOWING ESSENTIAL DOCKETS WILL **STILL BE HEARD**:

- 8:30 AM Bond Motions
- 9:00 AM Bond Motions followed by Advisements
- 9:30 AM Emergency Motions

- 9:30 AM Information On Attorney Court
- 9:30 AM and 10:30 AM Arraignment Court
- 1:30 PM Protective Order Court
- Online Specialty Courts (Veterans' Treatment and Mental Health dockets)

**THE FOLLOWING REGULAR COURT HEARINGS WILL BE HELD FOR INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS ONLY BEGINNING ON APRIL 13, 2020:**

- 9:30 AM Criminal and Traffic Court
- 9:30 AM Supervised Release Violations Court w/ Mental Health Monitoring
- 9:45 AM Supervised Release Violations Court
- 2:00 PM Preliminary Hearing Court
- 2:00 PM Sentencing and Non-Comp Courts

It is anticipated that segmented dockets in the Town of Herndon and Vienna will resume June 1st and June 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively with segmented dockets in Fairfax City set to resume on June 16, 2020. You may confirm the specific time of your case using the [Online Case Information System](#). Fairfax County Traffic and criminal dockets will be brought on gradually.

For more information on our modified procedures during this time, please visit the [Coronavirus Policies Page](#).