



# Calvert County NEWS

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*Board of Commissioners*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** March 16, 2020

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### **Calvert County Courthouse Closed to Public and Employees**

**PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – March 16, 2020** – The rapidly evolving health emergency regarding the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) requires the Maryland court system to continually review and evaluate contingency planning efforts. The Calvert County Courthouse located at 175 Main Street in Prince Frederick remains closed to the public, with new changes to operations and court proceedings effective Tuesday, March 17.

By Order of Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, all courts in the Maryland Judiciary, court offices, administrative offices, units of the Judiciary, and the Offices of the Clerks of the Circuit Courts and the clerks' offices of the District Court shall be restricted to emergency operations and closed with limited exceptions as described in this Order through April 3, or until further order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. Courthouse and court office staffing across the state will be reduced to "essential employees" only. Chief Judge Barbera's new Administrative Order provides in part as follows, and is subject to change or modification:

In keeping with the urgency of the following mandatory matters and consistent with statutory requirements, such matters shall continue to be scheduled or heard, either in person or remotely pursuant to the Administrative Order on Remote Electronic Participation in Judicial Proceedings, June 18, 2018. The court shall notify all participants necessary to the proceeding.

In the circuit courts:

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- bail reviews/bench warrants
- arraignments for detained defendants
- juvenile detention hearings
- emergency evaluation petitions
- quarantine and isolation petitions
- extradition cases
- body attachments
- extreme risk protective order appeals

In the District Court:

- bail reviews/bench warrants
- emergency evaluation petitions
- quarantine and isolation violations
- body attachments

District Court Commissioners shall handle the following matters:

- new extreme risk protective order petitions
- new domestic violence protective petitions
- new peace order petitions
- initial appearances
- applications for statement of charges
- acceptance of bail bonds
- bench warrant satisfactions

For all other emergency matters, including those listed below, the administrative judge or his or her designee shall review the petition, determine whether it must be heard in person, or can be heard with remote electronic participation, or can be scheduled after the emergency period has ended, or can be resolved without a hearing:

- shelter care hearings and/or related adjudications
- emergency delinquency hearings
- emergency Habeas Corpus petitions
- emergency issues in guardianship matters
- domestic violence protective orders

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- appeals from peace orders
- family law emergencies
- temporary restraining orders
- criminal competency matters
- motions regarding extreme risk protective orders, domestic violence protective orders or peace orders
- contempt hearings related to peace or protective orders
- matters involving locally incarcerated defendants

All other matters scheduled to be heard March 17 through April 3, 2020, are hereby postponed, pending further order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

Essential court personnel will be available to the public by telephone from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Maryland Electronic Court (MDEC) continues to be available for electronic filing and must be used for all MDEC counties. For pleadings not required to be filed electronically, filings will be received by mail and may be received via drop boxes installed at local courthouses.

Any questions or concerns relative to cases or proceedings should be directed to

- Circuit Court: 410-535-1600
- District Court: 443-550-6700

At this time, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Calvert County. Calvert County Government continues to take precautionary measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 and limit the number of people infected. Residents, employees and media are encouraged to monitor Calvert County's virtual resource center for updates and information resources:

[www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Coronavirus](http://www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Coronavirus).

Updates will continue to appear on the Calvert County Government website, [www.CalvertCountyMd.gov](http://www.CalvertCountyMd.gov), Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyMd](https://www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyMd) and Comcast Channel 6.

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