

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

IN RE: COURTHOUSE AND COURTROOM SECURITY

ORDER

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 53.1-120 (A), the Sheriff shall ensure that the courthouses and courtrooms within this jurisdiction are secure from violence and disruption and shall designate deputies for this purpose. In order to assist the Sheriff in his efforts to provide proper security for the courts, firearms or other weapons enumerated in Virginia Code § 18.2-283.1, chemical agents, cameras or recording devices are not permitted in the Virginia Beach Judicial Center Court Building unless otherwise authorized.

Additionally, there shall not be any type of taping, filming or recording any interior portion of the Virginia Beach Judicial Center Court Building unless otherwise authorized.

Also, laptop computers, cellular telephones, camera phones or other electronic or personal communication devices are not permitted in the Court Building except by: (i) attorneys who display a bar photo identification card; (ii) police officers, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, law enforcement agents or official, probation officers and magistrates possessing proper credentials while in the conduct of such person's official duties; (iii) Judges, both active and retired; (iv) licensed bail bondsmen possessing identification issued by the Department of Criminal Justice Services; (v) City and State employees, possessing proper credentials, who work in the Court Building or who are in the Court's Building on official business; (vi) Court Reporters while on official court business, and (vii) other individuals granted authorization upon a determination by the Sheriff that they do not pose a security risk and the ability to access such device is necessary for their work at the Virginia Beach Judicial Center.

Storage locker units are provided at the security entrance to the courthouse for anyone who is not allowed to bring their devices into the Court Building and have no other means of storage available to them.

Due to the ongoing public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Order of the Supreme Court of Virginia, persons entering the courthouse shall be subject to public health screening and questioning by court security personnel. Court security personnel may prohibit individuals from entering the courthouse after such public health screening. Court security personnel shall direct individuals prohibited from entering the courthouse to contact the clerk's office by telephone for further instructions regarding alternative arrangements for court-access. All persons aged 10 or over entering the courthouse must wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth except for those who cannot safely wear a mask because of a health-related condition or other medical issue that makes the wearing of a face covering unsafe.¹ The wearing of such face mask is required at all times within the courthouse. Any person who removes such face mask after entering the courthouse and then refuses to wear a face mask after being directed to do so by court security personnel may be removed from the Court Building by a deputy sheriff. Within a courtroom, the presiding judge may authorize removal of face mask to facilitate a proceeding.

A willful violation of this Order may be punished by contempt.

ENTER: June 26, 2020



The Honorable Glenn Croshaw, Chief Judge

¹ The Court notes that court security personnel will provide masks at the entry to the courthouse for those individuals who do not have a face mask.