

NOTICE TO THE CRIMINAL BAR & THE PUBLIC AS TO FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT SENTENCING DOCKETS

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

As the courts are gradually moving towards more normal dockets, the issue of bringing defendants from the Fairfax Adult Detention Center, and into courtrooms has been a matter of concern for the court.

As a result of the pandemic and concerns for the safety for all, defendants who are not out on bond have been appearing remotely, from the jail, for all hearings.

We are now able to begin transitioning to having defendants from the ADC *be present in the courtrooms for sentencing hearings and evidentiary criminal motions proceedings*. We hope to be able to have defendants from the jail present in the courtroom for other hearings in the reasonably near future. We continue to be concerned about the health and safety of all who visit the courthouse, and for all who enter our courtrooms.

Counsel for defendants who are *not* out on bond and who also wish to be in the courtroom for their sentencing hearing, should advise the *court in a timely fashion* so that the court and the Sheriff can make the appropriate arrangements to have their clients present in the courtroom.

Defendants who are on bond, are expected to *be present in the courtroom for their hearings*, unless excused by the court.

All individuals in the courtroom will be required to maintain social distance and must wear masks or other face coverings, in accordance with the Order of this Court and the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Submitted on behalf of the court. Bruce D. White, Chief Judge, June 9, 2020.