

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.

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.

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.

The following additional requirements shall apply¹:

- (1) Persons entering the courthouse shall be subject to public health screening by court security personnel.
- (2) All persons aged five years or over are required to wear a face mask that covers the nose and mouth for entry into and circulation within the courthouse. Persons who cannot wear a face mask may be permitted to enter the courthouse wearing a face shield provided the individual provides medical documentation to court security personnel substantiating such individual has difficulty breathing, cannot remove a face mask without help, or has other health conditions or disabilities that make wearing a face mask unsafe.
- (3) Court security personnel may prohibit individuals from entering the courthouse after such public health screening and/or failure to comply with this Order.
- (4) Court security personnel shall direct individuals prohibited from entering the courthouse to contact the clerk's office by telephone to inform the clerk of court of their business in the courthouse so they may receive further instructions regarding alternative arrangements for court-access by the clerk or the chief or presiding judge of such court.
- (5) Any person who removes such face mask or face shield after entering the courthouse and then refuses to wear such face covering after being directed to do so by court security personnel shall be removed from the Court Building by a deputy sheriff.
- (6) Within each courtroom, the presiding judge may waive the mask requirement while in the courtroom. Within offices in the Court Building, the office managers may establish face mask requirements within such office.

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

This Order supersedes any prior security order.

ENTER: May 21, 2021



The Honorable Leslie L. Lilley, Chief Judge

¹ The Court has reviewed and considered the Order of the Supreme Court of Virginia dated May 17, 2021 and the Governor's Executive Order Number 72 (2021).