

Justice of the Peace Court Phase III Operations

The Justice of the Peace Court enters Phase III of its COVID-19 Reopening Plan on October 5, 2020

What Will Change:

- Court lobby and courtroom capacity limits increase from 50% to 75% **where social-distancing requirements allow**
- Civil court locations will resume processing requests for property levies and constable sales
 - Pending requests will be re-scheduled
 - New requests will be scheduled

What Does Not Change:

- Court Security Officers will screen all visitors for COVID-19 symptoms
 - Anyone denied entrance will receive information on how to contact the Court
- Face masks are required
- Social distancing requirements remain in place
- The Court will do as much business as possible using video technology
 - The Court will use applications like Zoom to:
 - Speed the processing of cases
 - Reduce the need for people to appear in court
- Criminal, traffic, truancy, and civil cases types resumed in Phase II continue
- The Court will continue to issue:
 - Capiases (bench warrants) for failing to appear for scheduled online and in-person criminal court events
 - Default judgements for failure to appear for online and in-person civil violations events heard in criminal court
- Pretrial hearings and offers to mediate residential landlord-tenant cases filed prior to July 1 continue