

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF TAYLOR COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
BEING THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

IN RE: JUDICIAL OPERATIONS GIVEN RECENT COVID-19 POSITIVE TESTING FOR
COURTHOUSE EMPLOYEES IN VARIOUS COUNTY OFFICES AND RECENT
TAYLOR COUNTY COMMISSION DETERMINATIONS FOR COURTHOUSE
OPERATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, there have been recent positive COVID-19 test results for Taylor County employees who work in various offices located in Taylor County Courthouse, and

WHEREAS, the Taylor County Commission has determined and announced, effective Tuesday, December 22, 2020, that the Taylor County Courthouse and Annex facility will operate on an emergency basis for general operations, and

WHEREAS, after consulting with Taylor County Commission the undersigned Judge has determined that emergency matters or scheduled appointments for court and probation related functions shall remain open, and,

WHEREAS, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in Taylor County and elsewhere throughout the State of West Virginia necessitates court operations at the Taylor County Courthouse and Annex to be reduced in response to any potentially heightened COVID-19 exposure such as health matters make it unsafe for court personnel, attorneys, party litigants, and others to be at or near the Taylor County Courthouse and Annex for purposes of conducting usual work responsibilities, court proceedings, or related court business, and

WHEREAS, due to the ongoing nature of such COVID-19 matters and recent emergency, it is deemed necessary to protect the health and well-being of court personnel, attorneys, party litigants, and others by declaring a judicial emergency

THEREFORE, in further keeping with emergency judicial operation directives contained in the Second Administrative Order entered by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia on April 22, 2020, the West Virginia Constitution, and the provisions of West Virginia Code § 2-2-2, it is hereby **ORDERED**

that the Circuit Court and Magistrate Courts, as well as Circuit Clerk, Magistrate Clerk, and Probation Office of Taylor County shall operate on a limited basis effective Tuesday, December 22, 2020, other than for emergency matters as set forth and further addressed in such Second Administrative order and herein *infra*.

It is hereby further **ORDERED** that:

1. Magistrates shall perform their on-call assignments, but with limited personal access by the public and that, to the extent possible, proceedings may be conducted by video or telephonic means.

2. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Office of the Clerk of the Magistrate Court, and the Taylor County Probation Office shall respectively remain open. However, they will remain open only within their normal hours of operation being maintained by a limited number of office personnel present deemed enough to conduct necessary and emergency services, as well as to provide required public access via telephone and/or facsimile transmission.

Having so ordered, the Clerk of this Court is **DIRECTED** to send an attested copy of this Order to the Administrative Office of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, Taylor County Circuit Judge, 19th Family Court Judge, Taylor County Circuit Clerk, Taylor County Magistrates, Taylor County Magistrate Clerk, Chief Probation Officer, and the President of the County Commission of Taylor County.

DONE and **ORDERED** on December 22, 2020.



ALAN D. MOATS, Chief Judge

A TRUE COPY FROM THE RECORD

ATTEST: VONDA M. RENEMAN
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF TAYLOR
COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

BY: 