

**From:** Mason, Donald  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 1:51 PM  
**Subject:** Update regarding criminal matters

As you may or may not know, yesterday Judge Canady issued Administrative Order No. AOSC20-15 requiring criminal courts to perform **ONLY** essential court proceedings, including but not limited to: first appearance; criminal arraignments as necessary; hearings on motions to set or modify monetary bail for individuals who are in custody; juvenile dependency shelter hearings and juvenile delinquency detention hearings. CMC's, PTC's, hearings (other than bond) are to be continued. For Judge Richards and me, at this time, ERC is OFF until further notice.

Judge Richards, Judge Burns and I are setting up a plea schedule. I spoke to Lisa Wright at state probation a short while ago and they ARE accepting new probationers. Consequently, we can accept pleas that involve credit for time served, credit for time served with probation, violation of probation modifications or new terms, both of which involve the defendant getting out of custody and then reporting to probation.

We will be taking ANY get out of jail pleas; traffic, misdemeanor or felony, including vop's as noted above, regardless of docket. Anyone wishing to set an appropriate plea will need to schedule it through the Judicial Assistant for the respective judge. Any anticipated plea that is **not** a get out of jail plea will not be considered "essential" and must be continued. The Clerk's office will be setting matters out for 60 days and will be sending out notices of those new court dates.

**Next week**, Judge Richards will be taking pleas at 1:00 p. on Monday.  
Judge Burns will be taking pleas on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.  
Judge Mason will be taking pleas on Friday at 9:00 a.m.

We will be setting future dates as necessary.

Defendants will all appear via video and their pleas will be taken. Both defense and SAO will be with us in the courtroom. PD/Private attorneys **must** get plea forms to their clients before the plea for review prior to the hearings.

Secondly, please note that the Department of Corrections is not accepting any new DOC admissions. If an individual is to be sentenced to DOC, he or she is going to remain in custody in the local jail until this clears up. Consequently there is no hurry to take pleas involving DOC time and DOC pleas will not be considered essential.

More to follow....

*Donald H. Mason*

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