

NOTICE

BLAND COUNTY GENERAL DISTRICT COURT-PO BOX 157, BLAND, VA 24315

PHONE: 276-688-4433. FAX: 276-688-4789. Email: blandgd@vacourts.gov

Please be advised that your court hearing date and/or time has changed. The new hearing date and/or time is listed on the enclosed Notice of Hearing. Please closely read this NOTICE and the enclosed Notice of Hearing and be advised of the following:

- If you need legal advice, please contact an attorney
- If you are charged with a pre-payable offense and you wish to pre-pay your violation, please read your summons, your information sheet and the reverse side of the enclosed Notice of Hearing.
- If you are charged with speeding (law section 46.2-870) or fail to obey a highway sign (law section 46.2-830) and you wish to have your case dismissed after completing a Driver Improvement Program, please IMMEDIATELY contact the clerk's office by calling 276-688-4433.
- If you are charged with a traffic offense that is or is not pre-payable and you wish to be tried in your absence, please sign and date the left-hand side of your summons and email or mail the waiver to the court. If you no longer have your summons, you may fill out the enclosed Waiver of Trial. Faxes are accepted but you must call the clerk's office to make sure that we have received your fax and that it is legible.
- If you are charged with Reckless Driving and you have already mailed in a Waiver of Trial, then you will be tried in your absence on the date that is listed on the enclosed Notice of Hearing.
- If you have been charged with other offenses such as no inspection, defective equipment, no registration in possession, no license in possession, illegal window tint, expired registration, illegal tag cover or no license, you may email or mail in proof that you have corrected these violations and the judge will take into consideration that you are now in compliance. If you have already mailed in information showing that you are in compliance, the judge will consider your information on the date that is listed on the enclosed Notice of Hearing.
- If you decide to appear in court, you will not be allowed to enter the building until approximately 5 minutes before the time that your case is scheduled to be heard. Please see the enclosed Notice of Hearing to determine your hearing time. This time may be different from the time that was originally given to you when you first received your summons. Please remain in your vehicle until that time. You will enter through the back of the courthouse (Jackson Street). There will be sheriff's office staff on site to direct you. Please leave all personal items, including cell phones in your vehicle. You will have to pass through a metal detector and your temperature will be checked with a touchless thermometer. If you have a fever, you will not be permitted in the building and you will need to call the clerk's office to reschedule your hearing. Please **DO NOT COME TO COURT**: if you are sick with a fever, cough, or shortness of breath; if you have within the last 14 days visited ANY high risk country; if you have travelled within the US where COVID-19 has sustained widespread community transmission; if you have been asked to quarantine, isolate or self-monitor by any health care provider; if you have tested positive for COVID-19; if you have had contact with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19 or contact with anyone that falls in any of the aforementioned categories. You may reach the clerk's office by calling 276-688-4433 to request a continuance. **If you are late, you will not be permitted to enter and you will be tried in your absence.** Our physical address is 612 Main Street, Ste 106, Bland, VA 24315.
- Only defendants will be allowed to enter the building. Family, friends, children, etc...will not be permitted to enter. If a party has been served with a witness subpoena, they will be considered a necessary party and their appearance will be permitted.
- No one shall be inside the courthouse unless they are actively conducting court business. The courthouse shall not be used as a waiting area. Procedures will be developed in the coming days to assist litigants, notify them, and direct them when their hearing is "on deck". Social distancing standards will be enforced on the grounds of the courthouse as well. No one shall congregate in the courthouse. Social distancing shall be strictly enforced by officers of the court. Once anyone's business is concluded, they must leave the building. Traffic in the courtroom itself will be strictly limited. Cases will be heard under control of the court. These rules are subject to immediate and unannounced amendment by the presiding judge depending on prevailing circumstances. **THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA'S EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 63 REQUIRES THAT A FACE COVERING BE WORN INSIDE STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS EFFECTIVE MAY 29, 2020. THE COURT WILL NOT PROVIDE FACE COVERINGS.**