



**CITY OF RICHMOND**  
**OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF**  
**1701 FAIRFIELD WAY**  
**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23223**  
**ANTIONETTE V. IRVING - SHERIFF**



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**THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 24, 2020

The Richmond City Sheriff's Office has been working on a resolution regarding evictions for about a month in attempts to get ahead of the matter as it relates to evictions and **COVID-19**. In working with the Judicial System given the current circumstances during this State of Emergency and Global Pandemic to prevent the spread of **COVID-19** it is critical that any execution of evictions scheduled with this office be **suspended**.

**COVID-19** is a communicable disease that is a threat to public health and public safety as the cause and spread of the disease is still unknown.

This office recognizes that this brings hardship and heartache to families and children in the community. Any evictions that occur during the State of Emergency and Global Pandemic might lead to the spread of **COVID-19** as the potential for individuals to become homeless and further be exposed to the disease.

This virus is having a dramatic impact on the health and safety of the community and its citizens. The COVID-19 virus continues to spread and place individuals, their families and communities in danger and our goal is to decrease the opportunity for this pandemic to grow.

Know that this office will do what is legal. Understand that we as a Sheriff's Office are obligated to serve and execute evictions. There is a statutory obligation to serve evictions and writs which encompass multiple steps for the landlord and the defendant. Once we receive an order we must serve it, as we are legally required to serve such as the writs in question were signed prior to the Judicial Emergency on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Once we have received such order we required to serve and execute. As it is a judicial order to evict which must be served within 72 hours, these orders were served prior to March 16<sup>th</sup>, and we were obligated to execute on the dates prescribed unless the two reach some other recourse.



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**Evictions at this time will put residents and the public in harm's way. As such the Richmond City Sheriff's Office has communicated with the landlords in question and no evictions will be executed during this time of emergency.**

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