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Court Orders
Related to COVID-19 Closures
In FMG Jurisdictions

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California

Trial Courts: Jury trials (criminal and civil) were suspended for 60 days in [an order issued by the Supreme Court on March 23](#). That order also gave superior courts the discretion to draft further rules.

Governor Gavin Newsom also issued [Executive Order N-38-20](#) revising the effect of procedural rules to allow for remote depositions in all cases (rather than requiring in-person depositions of parties under existing law), and allowing for electronic service of process.

California Courts of Appeal:

***NOTE:** The various orders issued by California's six appellate districts and their divisions leave a patchwork of temporary rules concerning deadlines and oral arguments. The following information is current as of March 27, 2020. More current information may exist on the websites for the various Districts and Divisions, which are linked below.*

- **First District (San Francisco):** Pursuant to [Order 2020-1](#), in-person oral argument sessions are suspended. Counsel who choose to present oral argument must do so telephonically (telephonic oral argument fees are waived). Additionally, an [Emergency Order](#) entered on March 18 provides that the time to do any act required or permitted under the California Rules of Court is extended by 30 additional days. No application for an extension of time is required. Applies to proceedings in which the deadline occurs March 18 - April 17. For more information visit the Court's website available [here](#).
- **Second District:**
 - **Divisions 1-5, 7, 8 (Los Angeles):** Pursuant to a [March 16th Order](#), all in-personal oral arguments are suspended. Oral argument will occur via videoconference, teleconference, or other electronic means arranged through clerk.
 - **Division 6 (Ventura):** No order has been issued regarding in-person oral argument.
 - **Divisions 1-8 (Los Angeles, Ventura):** The time to do any act required or permitted under the California Rules of Court is extended by 30 additional days. No application for an extension of

time is required. This [Order](#) applies to proceedings in which the deadline falls between March 20 and April 19.

- The most recent information regarding impacts of COVID-19 on the Second District's operations can be found at its website [here](#).
- **Third District (Sacramento):** Pursuant to an [Order](#) issued on March 23, oral argument for the month of April is cancelled to be reset at a future date. The time to do any act required or permitted under the California Rules of Court is extended by 30 additional days. No application for an extension of time is required. Applies to proceedings in which the deadline occurs March 20 - April 19, 2020. The most up-to-date information can be found at the Third District's website [here](#).
- **Fourth District:** Pursuant to an [Emergency Order](#), the time to do any act required or permitted under the California Rules of Court is extended by 30 additional days. No application for an extension of time is required. Applies to proceedings in which the deadline occurs March 19 through April 18. The most up-to-date information can be found at the Fourth District's website [here](#). Additional information regarding specific Divisions is detailed below:
 - **Division 1 (San Diego):** In-person oral arguments are suspended. Counsel who choose to present oral argument must do so telephonically. For current information, email 4DCA2ContactUs@jud.ca.gov or call the Clerk's Office at (619) 744-0760 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
 - **Division 2 (Riverside):** For current information, email 4DCA2ContactUs@jud.ca.gov or call the Clerk's Office at (951) 782-2500 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
 - **Division 3 (Santa Ana):** If parties or counsel have concerns about health issues, but are still able to argue the case, please notify the court at (714) 571-2600 to arrange for oral argument via teleconference. For current information, email 4DCA3ContactUs@jud.ca.gov or call the Clerk's Office at (714) 571-2600.
- **Fifth District (Fresno):** The time to do any act required or permitted under the California Rules of Court is extended by 30 additional days under an

[Emergency Order](#). No application for an extension of time is required. Applies to proceedings in which the deadline occurs March 23 - April 22, 2020. Visit the Fifth District's [website](#) for the most current information.

- **Sixth District (San Jose):** An [Emergency Order](#) has extended the time to do any act required or permitted under the California Rules of Court by 30 additional days. No application for an extension of time is required. Applies to proceedings in which the deadline occurs March 18-April 17, 2020. The most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 impacts can be found on the court's [website](#).

Supreme Court of California: The Supreme Court of California has:

- [Expanded e-filing](#) to require electronic filing of all documents including briefs in the Supreme Court;
- [Extended all deadlines](#) in the Supreme Court falling between March 20 and April 20 for an additional 30 days;
- [Ordered oral arguments](#) to be conducted from the court's San Francisco headquarters, with counsel to appear via telephone or video conferencing; and
- [Implemented additional social distancing](#) and density controls.

Federal District Courts:

- The **Eastern District Court of California** issued [General Order 612](#) on March 18, 2020, closing all courthouses to the public. All civil matters will be decided on the papers, and hearings and settlement conferences will take place telephonically or by videoconference. Judges may order case-by-case exceptions to any of the provisions for non-jury court matters at their discretion or at the request of counsel.
- In the **Northern District of California** and pursuant to [Amended General Order 73](#), the Oakland, San Jose and Eureka/McKinleyville Courthouses are closed entirely to the public, and all essential courthouse operations are consolidated and relocated to the San Francisco Courthouse until April 7, 2020. The court will continue to accept electronic filings and hearings will be held by video or telephone conference.

- As of March 23, 2020, and through May 1, 2020, the **Central District Court of California** has activated its Continuity of Operations Plan (“COOP”). Although essential court functions and operations will continue, all courthouses are closed to the public except for certain criminal matters. In all civil cases, no hearings will go forward except for emergency time-sensitive matters, and those will proceed telephonically. More details and information regarding the Court’s most recent COVID-19 Notice can be found [here](#).
- The **Southern District of California Courts** released a [General Order](#) on March 17 and an [Amended General Order](#) on March 23 announcing that all non-emergency civil and criminal trial proceedings are postponed until April 16, 2020. Any filings should be completed electronically except for rare exceptions and judges have discretion to allow and use video or telephonic conferences. More details and information regarding the Court’s most recent COVID-19 Notice can be found [here](#).

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals: In response to the spread of COVID-19, the Ninth Circuit issued a [Notice](#) on March 26, 2020 advising that courthouses are closed to public during non-court weeks, and encouraging attorneys and *pro se* litigants to submit filings electronically. Pursuant to the notice, directive orders will be issued in all cases with oral arguments currently scheduled through May 2020, and the court will extend filing deadlines as needed. Staff is limited, so there may be delay in responses to inquiries by phone and email.

Connecticut

Trial Courts: By [Executive Order](#), Connecticut has closed its courts to the public indefinitely, statewide, except for matters involving (1) temporary restraining orders; (2) abuse prevention orders; (3) ex parte child custody emergency matters; and (4) criminal arraignments and detention hearings. Courts continue to have skeleton staffs with significantly restricted hours.

Statewide, the Connecticut civil short calendar and trial calendar are suspended indefinitely and until further notice.

Connecticut Appellate Court: The court will not hear oral arguments for the next term running from April 6 through April 24. Daily hours are restricted from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Connecticut Supreme Court: The Supreme Court has postponed oral arguments scheduled through April 2, 2020.

The Connecticut Judicial Branch is maintaining [this web page](#) with updated notices regarding closings and cancellations.

Federal District Courts:

Effective through May 15, 2020 the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut is operating under [series of orders](#) related to COVID-19:

All in-person civil and criminal proceedings scheduled to commence on or before May 15, 2020 are continued. The Court will handle in-person hearings for presentment of new arrests, detention hearings, grand jury returns, and civil matters requiring a prompt hearing under Fed. R. Civ. P. 65. The Court may in its discretion hear certain matters via video or teleconference, and the parties will be promptly notified through the CM/ECF system.

Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit:

Only those with business at the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit will be granted admission into the courthouse building until further order of the Court. However, the Court issued a series of [orders](#) designed to minimize the disruption of court proceedings as much as possible. The regular argued appeals and motions calendars are continuing to be heard as scheduled. However, beginning on March 23, 2020 and until further notice from the Court, all oral arguments and motions will be heard via a Court provided teleconference platform. Alternatively, parties may request to have their appeal submitted for determination on the briefs.

Furthermore, as of March 16, 2020, the Court ordered a 21-day extension of time for all filings and deadlines between March 16, 2020 and May 17, 2020. For example, a brief due on March 18, 2020 is now due on April 8, 2020. This order was further extended from April 6, 2020 through June 5, 2020, meaning a brief due on April 7, 2020 is now due on April 28, 2020. Overall, filings are expected to resume on April 6, 2020, i.e., 21 days after March 16, 2020. Filing dates set specifically by order after March 13, 2020 and the filing date for a notice of appeal or other document that confers jurisdiction on the Court are not covered by this order.

Florida

Trial Courts:

- **First Judicial Circuit:** (Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton Counties). The courts are closed except those with official business and scheduled court proceedings. Until April 19, 2020, only the following matters will be heard: (a) first appearances; (b) criminal and juvenile delinquency arraignments; (c) bond hearings; (d) juvenile detention hearings; (e) juvenile dependency/shelter hearings; (e) Chapter 39 injunctions; (f) petitions for judicial waiver of parental notice under section 390.01114(4), Fla. Stat.; (g) petitions for emergency incapacity petitions and appointment of emergency temporary guardian; (h) petitions for dating violence, domestic violence, repeat violence, sexual violence or stalking injunctions; (i) petitions for risk protection orders; (j) requests for "Do Not Resuscitate" orders; (k) vulnerable adult petitions; (l) search or arrest warrants/authorizations for wiretaps; (m) Baker Act and Marchman Act proceedings; (n) Adult Protective Services Act proceedings; (o) family law and dependency cases in which the imminent safety of children is at issue; (p) Extraordinary Writs as necessary to protect constitutional rights; (q) proceedings related to the state of emergency or public health emergency, including but not limited to violation of quarantine or isolation orders, violations of orders to limit travel, violation of orders to close public or private buildings; seizure of bodily fluids, and enforcement of curfew orders; (r) in-custody change of pleas which will result in a release from incarceration; (s) proceedings involving violations and sanctions for Drug Court, Veteran's Court, and Mental Health Court participants; (u) forty-eight hour hearings for those arrested for failure to pay child support; and (v) any other emergency proceedings or hearings as authorized by the Chief Judge.

The individual county courts have followed the First Judicial Circuit's lead, except they are not handling the Chapter 39 injunctions.

- **Second Judicial Circuit:** (Franklin, Gadsen, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla Counties) The Courts are closed except for essential judicial functions. On March 18, 2020, Chief Judge Sjoström limited the proceedings to those essential, which are the same in large degree as the First Judicial Circuit. However, the list is narrower, so the safest course is to confirm with each Circuit. The essential proceedings are: first appearance

in criminal cases; criminal arraignments as deemed necessary; hearings on motions to set or modify bail for individuals in custody; juvenile dependency shelter hearings; juvenile delinquency detention hearings; hearings on petitions for injunctions relating to safety of an individual; hearings on petitions for risk protection orders; hearings for the appointment of an emergency temporary guardian; and hearings on involuntary commitment under the Baker or Marchman Acts. In addition, the Court will also address violation of quarantine or isolation; violation of orders to limit travel; violation of orders to close public or private buildings; and enforcement of curfew orders.

Importantly, the Court also advised judges not to issue writs of bodily attachment for contempt hearings re: failure to pay child support/alimony on March 27, 2020.

These orders are in effect until future notice.

- **Third Judicial Circuit:** (Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor Counties) On March 27, 2020, Chief Judge Feagle issued an order limiting in-person court appearances. All felony and misdemeanor dates are cancelled at least until April 17, 2020, including arraignments, motions, pretrial, violations of probation, etc.) Instead, the Third Circuit has adopted a criminal on-call judge protocol, assigned on a rotating basis, to address pleas and bond reductions. The Court has otherwise adopted the restrictions in Administrative Order AOSC20-17 from the Supreme Court of Florida, which suspends all grand jury proceedings, jury selection proceedings, and criminal and civil jury trials. The Court emphasized that all personnel for any essential proceeding must appear, if at all possible, remotely.
- **Fourth Judicial Circuit:** (Clay, Duval, Nassau). On March 17, 2020, the Fourth Judicial Circuit suspended all circuit and county *civil* trials until May 1, 2020. Grand jury proceedings, jury selection, and criminal trials are also suspended, but there is no indication for how long. The courts are open to address the following essential matters: (a) if required in person appearance by order of the court; (b) filing a petition for an injunction concerning domestic, repeat, dating, or sexual violence and/or stalking; (c) emergency motions re: family law case pertaining to parental responsibility etc. visitation or safety; (d) Risk Protection Orders; (e) motions for temporary custody of minor child; (f) emergency guardianship; (g) involuntary assessment under Baker and Marchman acts; (h) tenant payments for

evictions (delivery of payment to outside lockbox); (i) motions for habeas corpus; and (j) motion to stay a writ of possession/execution.

- **Fifth Judicial Circuit:** All courts closed through April 17, 2020. The court will continue to conduct the following hearings and will do so electronically to the extent feasible: First Appearance Hearings, Shelter Hearings, Baker Act Hearings, Marchman Act Hearings, Emergency Guardianship Hearings, Risk Protection Order Hearings, Juvenile Detention Hearings, Initial Domestic Violence Injunction Hearings and any other matter that is determined to be related to the immediate and imminent health, welfare, and safety of an individual or the general public. In addition to essential proceedings, all circuit and county courts will perform, as necessary and applicable, critical proceedings related to the state of emergency or the public health emergency, including but not limited to proceedings related to: violation of quarantine or isolation; violation of orders to limit travel; violation of orders to close public or private buildings; and enforcement of curfew orders. Hearings will be conducted electronically to the extent feasible. Any time periods prescribed or allowed by procedural rule, court order, statute, or otherwise that last expire within the time the court is closed will be extended upon reopening.
 - Citrus and Lake County: Clerk’s Office is open.
 - Sumter County: All matters canceled or continued due to court closure will be rescheduled at least 60 days out.
- **Sixth Judicial Circuit:** On March 17, 2020, the court issued an [Administrative Order](#) in response to the emergency declared by the Florida Supreme Court. The order allows mission critical cases as defined by the order to be handled by the court. All grand jury proceedings, jury selection proceedings, and criminal and civil jury trials were suspended beginning March 16, 2020 until further order of the court. All other non-mission critical cases are suspended until further notice of the court.
- **Seventh Judicial Circuit:** Emergency court procedures are in place through April 20, 2020. Court proceedings are limited to those deemed “mission critical” as defined below:
 - First appearances;
 - Bond hearings;
 - Juvenile detention hearings;

- Juvenile shelter hearings;
- Domestic violence, repeat violence, sexual violence, dating violence and stalking injunctions, as well as all chapter 39 injunctions (including “Orders Setting Hearing” where a temporary injunction was not issued);
- Risk protection orders;
- Marchman Acts;
- Baker Acts;
- Family law (including juvenile) cases where the imminent safety of children is an issue;
- Vulnerable Adult injunctions;
- Emergency incapacity petitions and appointment of guardians; 1) Proceedings involving requests for “do not resuscitate” orders;
- Adult Protective Service Act proceedings;
- Requests for search warrants and arrest warrants;
- Violations of quarantine or isolation orders;
- Violations of orders to limit travel;
- Violations of orders to close public or private buildings;
- Seizure of bodily fluids;
- Mandatory vaccination proceedings;
- Enforcement of curfew orders;
- Extraordinary writs (with the exception of writs of possession);
- Any other “emergency” proceedings or hearings as authorized by the Chief Judge.

Entry to court facilities in which “mission critical” hearings are conducted is limited to the media, attorneys, litigants, witnesses, victims, essential personnel necessary to conduct the critical mission of the court, and any court partner and their employees who are physically located within the building. All court proceedings/events not addressed in the court’s order

that are scheduled to take place in any court facility in the 7th Judicial Circuit are postponed and are to be rescheduled by the parties or the court. Except as otherwise provided in the court's order, when available, electronic means of communication such as telephone, conference call, or videoconference should be used to minimize face-to-face contact among judges, attorneys and litigants.

- Volusia County: All civil extraordinary writs, enforcement of curfew orders, mandatory vaccination proceedings, seizure of bodily fluids, violations of orders to close public and private buildings, violations of orders limiting travel, and violations of quarantine or isolation orders will take place “in-person” or by electronic means at times designated by the presiding judges at the Volusia County Courthouse, or at a location designated by the Department of Health.
- Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns County: All civil hearings in will take place “in-person” or electronically to the extent feasible at times and in locations designated by the Administrative Judges of the respective counties, or the Department of Health. St. John jury proceedings and jury trials suspended through April 17, 2020, and trials scheduled during this period will be rescheduled.
- **Eighth Judicial Circuit:** (Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy and Union) The relevant and most recent order is on March 26, 2020. All grand jury proceedings, jury selection proceedings, and criminal and civil jury trials are suspended during the period of March 30, 2020 through April 17, 2020. The Eighth Judicial Circuit has specific directions for each of its courthouses. This breaks out exactly which services are available at each. <https://circuit8.org/wp-content/uploads/11.25-Revised-Corona-Virus-Pandemic-COVID-19-Emergency-Procedures.pdf>
- **Ninth Judicial Circuit:** Jury trials suspended through April 17, 2020. Otherwise follows State Supreme Court orders.
 - Orange County: Courthouse open but with limited public access for essential hearings only, persons seeking restraining orders, and persons permitted with advanced notice by the Chief Judge and/or presiding judge.

- Osceola County: Clerk’s Office closed through April 6, 2020. Emergency motions may be sent by email or fax, and case filings may be done through e-file.
- **Tenth Judicial Circuit:** On March 25, 2020, Chief Judge Ellen S. Master issued an [Administrative Order](#) summarizing that circuit’s response to the emergency declared by the Florida Supreme Court. The order states, “no proceedings or other court events other than essential proceedings and proceeding critical to the state of emergency or public health emergency shall be conducted through in-person hearings until such time as the public health emergency is resolved, or as provided by subsequent order.”
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- **Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida:** All court proceedings except emergency and mission critical court hearings are postponed through April 17, 2020. All court facilities are closed through April 17, 2020. Non-emergency court proceedings will commence once a remote appearance technology platform is implemented, allowing court proceedings to take place without in-person appearance.

Mission Critical Matters include:

- First Appearances (Bond hearings);
- Arraignment hearings for in-custody defendants. However, defendant’s presence is not needed. If there is a written plea, the case will be set for trial. If there is no written plea, the arraignment hearing will be reset;
- Baker Act and Marchman Act (Substance Abuse) hearings;
- Juvenile Shelter and Detention hearings;
- Filing of Emergency Petitions for Temporary Injunctions(domestic violence, dating, stalking, repeat and sexual violence and risk protection orders).
- All final hearings pursuant to these injunctions will be cancelled and reset. All temporary injunctions will be extended and remain in full force and effect until the next hearing date;
- Emergency proceedings set by the presiding judge. Emergency proceedings will be conducted remotely wherever possible as directed by the individual judge.

All time limits and deadlines set by judicial order and/or authorized by rule and statute applicable to: civil, family, domestic violence, dependency, probate, small claims, traffic, bond forfeiture, and appellate proceedings are suspended from March 13, 2020 until close of business on Monday, April 20, 2020. Any deadlines falling before April 20, 2020 are extended 38 days from the original deadline.

- **Twelfth Judicial Circuit:** Based on the March 24, 2020 [order](#) by Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Canady, the Twelfth Judicial Circuit will suspend all non-essential or non-critical programs and services through April 17, 2020.
- **Thirteenth Judicial Circuit:** On March 18, 2020, Chief Judge Ronald Ficarrotta entered an [Administrative Order](#) summarizing that circuit's response to the emergency declared by the Florida Supreme Court. All jury trials are suspended through April 17, 2020 and all grand jury proceedings are suspended through March 27, 2020. Except for mission critical proceedings as defined in the order, all judicial proceedings in all county civil and circuit civil cases must be conducted by either teleconference or by written submission of memoranda. If parties do not agree to conduct their proceedings by telephone, the proceedings must be continued to at least April 20, 2020.
- **Fourteenth Judicial Circuit:** (Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson and Washington Counties) On March 24, 2020, the Fourth Judicial Circuit submitted their most recent Covid-19 administrative order. The courts remain open, but each of the courthouses have their own specific degree of physical access, which must be confirmed at the time. The public is advised all courthouses have electronic and telephone access. At this time:
 - Until further order, all in-person hearings have been suspended.
 - Until further order, all jury trials and grand jury proceedings are suspended. Some non-critical proceedings that cannot be done telephonically or by video are suspended and continued.
 - A circuit-wide moratorium is imposed on in-person foreclosure sales.
 - A circuit-wide moratorium is imposed on the service of writs of possession.

- All judges in the circuit are designated as juvenile judges along with their regular duties to ensure the prompt disposition of juvenile detention matters.
 - For at-risk children, the Court has adopted a policy of electronic parent-child visitations in keeping with Florida law.
 - For individuals ordered into State-mandated counseling, all in-person counseling is suspended, and counseling shall continue utilizing electronic means.
- **Fifteenth Judicial Circuit:** Courthouses remain open for essential functions. Mediations will be held remotely Monday through Friday. On Fridays through May 1, 2020, all court hearings are suspended with the exception of first appearances at the Gun Club Criminal Justice Complex, juvenile detention and shelter hearings at the Main Courthouse, walk-in/emergency Baker Act and Marchman Act hearings at the South, North, and Main Courthouses, and any other emergency or time sensitive hearing as specially set by any judge at any courthouse. All grand jury proceedings, jury selection proceedings, and criminal and civil jury trials are suspended until April 17, 2020 or as further ordered by the Florida Supreme Court. All non-essential court proceedings are suspended through the end of business on May 1, 2020, unless the presiding judicial officer determines that the matter may be effectively conducted remotely with all parties using communication equipment. Essential court proceedings will be handled by the divisional judge, magistrate, hearing officer, or duty judge who would normally hear the matter and will be held electronically when possible. The following matters are deemed essential court proceedings:
 - First appearance hearings;
 - Criminal arraignments, when necessary;
 - Hearings on motions to set or modify monetary bail for individuals who are in custody;
 - Juvenile detention hearings;
 - Juvenile dependency shelter and arraignment hearings as necessary;
 - Termination of Parental Rights advisory hearings;

- Petitions for Judicial Waiver of Notice pursuant to section 390.01114(4), Florida Statutes;
 - Hearings on petitions for the appointment of an emergency temporary guardian;
 - Ex parte injunctions for dating violence, domestic violence, repeat violence, sexual violence, stalking, or prevention of child abuse pursuant to Chapter 39, Florida Statutes;
 - Ex parte petitions for Risk Protection Orders;
 - Issuance of warrants or authorizations for wiretaps;
 - Baker Act and Marchman Act proceedings;
 - Extraordinary Writs;
 - Proceedings related to the state of emergency or public health emergency, including but not limited to proceedings related to violation of quarantine or isolation orders; violation of orders to limit travel; violation of orders to close public or private buildings; and enforcement of curfew orders;
 - Any other emergency or time sensitive matter as determined by the judge.
- **Sixteenth Judicial Circuit:** Emergency proceedings in place through April 17, 2020 unless further extended by order of court. Court Proceedings are limited to those deemed “mission critical” as defined below
 - First Appearances
 - Bond Hearings
 - Criminal Arraignments, as necessary;
 - Juvenile detention hearings
 - Juvenile Shelter Hearings
 - Domestic violence, repeat violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking injunctions, as well as all chapter 39 injunctions
 - Risk Protection orders

- Marchman Acts;
 - Baker Acts;
 - Family law (including juvenile) cases where the imminent safety of children is an issue
 - Vulnerable adult injunctions;
 - Emergency incapacity petitions and appointment of guardians
 - Proceedings involving requests for “do not resuscitate” orders
 - Adult Protective service Act proceedings;
 - Requests for search warrants and arrest warrants;
 - Violations of quarantine or isolation orders;
 - Violations of orders to limit travel;
 - Violations of orders to close public or private buildings;
 - Seizure of bodily fluids;
 - Mandatory vaccinations proceedings;
 - Enforcement of curfew orders;
 - Extraordinary writs
 - Any other “emergency” proceedings or hearings authorized by the Chief Judge, which includes jail plea and admissions by incarcerated defendants via video.
- Entry to court facilities to participate in mission critical hearings is limited to attorneys, litigants, witnesses, and essential personnel
 - First appearances will be held via video from the Freeman Justice Center, the Marathon Courthouse and Plantation Key Courthouse to Monroe County Detention Centers
 - Criminal arraignments will be held in all three courthouse locations for incarcerated felony and misdemeanor defendants only

via video from jails. All arraignment dates for out of custody defendants will be rescheduled.

- Requests Juvenile Shelter Hearings and Juvenile Detention shall be made with the presiding judge during normal working hours or the duty judge on nights and weekends
- Requests for temporary injunctions shall be made with the presiding judge during normal working hours or the duty judge on nights and weekends. Injunction hearings relating to the safety of an individual shall take place in person or by telephonic means at dates and times designated by the presiding judges
- All risk protection orders hearings shall take place in person or by telephonic means at dates and times designated by the presiding judges.
- Family and dependency emergencies where imminent harm to a child is an issue shall be presented to the presiding judge and will be considered/heard as determined by the presiding judge in person or via video.
- Requests for search and arrest warrants will be considered during normal working hours by the day duty judges at each courthouse location and on nights and weekends by the duty judge.
- All requests for emergency mission critical civil actions shall be presented to the presiding circuit civil judge in each courthouse location during normal working hours. Hearings on these matters shall be conducted via video or in person as determined by the presiding judge.
- Any judge, who in his/her judgment feels the need to conduct a hearing outside the parameters of this Order shall request permission to do so from the chief judge.
- No inmate housed in any jail facility is to be transported to any court facility in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit absent a written order from the Chief Judge
- All court proceedings not specifically mentioned that are scheduled to take place in any facility in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit are

hereby postponed and are to be rescheduled by the parties of the court.

- Courthouses are closed to general public except as otherwise provided above
- **Seventeenth Judicial Circuit:** Normal court operations are suspended through April 17, 2020. All jury selection proceedings and jury trials are suspended through April 17, 2020, except for those trials underway prior to the court's suspension of normal operations and as authorized by the Chief Judge. The Clerk of Court shall not enter any default. No writs of possession or writs of garnishment may issue until normal operations of the court resume. Special proceedings for "mission critical" matters (which are the same as those listed as essential court proceedings for the 15th Judicial Circuit). All non-essential court proceedings should continue. Hearings in circuit civil, probate, and unified family (including non-essential dependency and delinquency) should only be held via communication equipment. Hearings should not be cancelled and may be cancelled only with the permission of the presiding judge.
- **Eighteenth Judicial Circuit:** Courts are open and continue to handle all essential and emergency matters. Nonessential court proceedings are postponed. Video and teleconferencing are employed whenever possible. All small claim case management and/or pretrial conferences and trials are suspended for 30 days and recommence after April 15, 2020 or as provided by subsequent order. Otherwise follows State Supreme Court orders.
 - Brevard County: Merritt Island and Palm Bay offices are closed to the public. All other Clerk of Court locations will remain open to the public.
 - Seminole County: All injunction petitions and proceedings will move forward telephonically or via videoconference.
- **Nineteenth Judicial Circuit:** Courthouses (Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties) are closed to the public and jury trials are suspended through April 17, 2020. Essential court proceedings will be conducted, to the extent possible, telephonically and/or using remote video conferencing capabilities. All in-person non-essential functions are canceled or postponed through April 17, 2020. To the extent possible, the

courts will conduct these proceedings electronically. Essential court proceedings will continue as stated below:

- First appearance hearings;
- Juvenile dependency shelter hearings;
- Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) advisory hearings; Hearings on petitions for Judicial Waiver of Notice;
- Juvenile delinquency detention hearings;
- Hearings on ex parte petitions for temporary injunctions relating to safety of an individual;
- Instanter hearings on child support writ reviews; Hearings on ex parte petitions for risk protection orders;
- Hearings on petitions for the appointment of an emergency temporary guardian;
- Hearings on Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Orders;
- Involuntary commitment hearings under the Baker Act or Marchman Act;
- Hearings on motions to set or modify monetary bond for defendants in custody;
- Hearings on petitions for extraordinary writs as necessary to protect constitutional rights;
- Criminal arraignments as necessary;
- Issuance of warrants or authorization for wiretaps;
- Other emergency or time-sensitive matters as determined by the presiding judge.
- A change of plea hearing that results in release from county jail.

Additionally, the court will hear, as necessary, critical proceedings related to the state of emergency or the public health emergency, including but not limited to:

- Violation of quarantine or isolation;

- Violation of orders to limit travel;
 - Violation of orders to close public or private buildings; and
 - Enforcement of curfew orders.
- **Twentieth Judicial Circuit:** On March 18, 2020, in response to the Florida Supreme Court’s declaration of a judicial emergency, Chief Judge Michael T. McHugh entered a local [Administrative Order](#) to establish essential and critical court proceedings and the manner in which to handle them, preferably remotely, but, if not possible, in person with precautions taken. Also, in accordance with the prior Florida Supreme Court Administrative Orders, the local order directed that all non-essential and non-critical court proceedings be suspended, unless the matter could effectively be conducted using communication equipment and with the approval of the Chief Judge.

Court of Appeals:

- **First District Court of Appeal:** On March 19, 2020, the following order was entered: The First District Court of Appeal has postponed or canceled all oral argument sessions scheduled through the end of April. The panel assigned to hear each affected case will determine whether to reschedule the oral argument or to decide the case without oral argument. Persons wishing to conduct business in person with the Clerk’s Office should contact the Clerk’s Office at (850) 488-6151 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (ET) before attempting to visit the Clerk’s Office. The Clerk’s Office will provide instructions on how to submit filings to the Court and how to conduct business with the Clerk’s Office without the necessity of visiting the courthouse. If you have documents to physically file with the Clerk’s Office (and you cannot electronically file those documents), the deputy marshal at the courthouse entrance will take your filings for delivery to the Clerk’s Office. The courthouse is otherwise closed to public access until further notice.
- **Second District Court of Appeal:** On March 16, 2020, Chief Judge Nelly Khouzam of the Second District Court of Appeal [canceled](#) all oral argument sessions scheduled at Stetson University College of Law’s Tampa Law Center through April 2020. Based on the preferences of the parties, oral arguments in the affected cases may be rescheduled for a later date or considered without oral argument.

- **Third District Court of Appeal:** The Courthouse building is closed until further notice. The Court is still operational, and attorneys and pro se litigants should continue to file documents electronically. All oral arguments scheduled for April are cancelled. The individual panels will decide on a case-by-case basis whether to continue the oral argument or decide the case without oral argument
- **Fourth District Court of Appeal:** In-person oral argument sessions scheduled for March 24, March 30, and April 7 are canceled.
- **Fifth District Court of Appeal:** All oral argument sessions scheduled through the end of April are canceled. Court otherwise is open for business. Filing is electronic, and court participants who cannot e-file or need assistance are directed to contact the court. Passed Administrative Order [AOSC20-12 as part of ongoing efforts to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on the courts and court participants.](#)

Supreme Court:

Florida's Chief Justice Charles Canady has issued several statewide orders that effect multiple issues. These are available at <https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/News-Media/Court-News>.

The Court Emergency Management Group (CEMG) shall continue ongoing planning and take such preventive and mitigating measures as may be necessary to address the COVID-19 outbreak. The CEMG shall recommend, develop, distribute, and implement policy directives from the Chief Justice as may be needed to deal with changes to normal operations of the Florida State Courts necessitated by COVID-19 including but not limited to ensuring staffing and administering attendance and leave.

On March 24, 2020, the Florida Supreme Court extended the suspension of all grand jury proceedings, jury selection proceedings, and criminal and civil jury trials through Friday, April 17, 2020, or as provided by subsequent order.

All time periods involving the speedy trial procedure, in criminal and juvenile court proceedings, are further suspended through the close of business on Monday, April 20, 2020, or as provided by subsequent order.

With regard to persons arrested for first degree murder, it is hereby ordered that all time periods pursuant to Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure 3.133(b) and

3.134 are suspended from the close of business on Friday, March 13, 2020, through the close of business on Friday, April 17, 2020, or as provided by subsequent order.

The Supreme Court has also waived certain notary requirements for Florida Family Law Forms. In addition, Administrative Order No. AOSC20-16 suspended any actual or implied requirement that notaries, and other persons qualified to administer an oath in the State of Florida, must be in the presence of witnesses for purposes of administering an oath for depositions and other legal testimony, so long as the notary or other qualified person can both see and hear the witness via audio-video communications equipment for purposes of readily identifying the witnesses.

The requirement in Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.580(a) for the clerk to issue a writ of possession “forthwith” shall be suspended through the close of business on Friday, April 17, 2020.

Federal District Courts

- **Northern District of Florida:** Mark E. Walker, Chief US District Judge of the Northern District, entered the following order on March 23, 2020. All Court locations are closed to the public, except for those individuals necessary to attend in-person hearings, trials or matters before the Court. Jury trials and grand jury proceedings are canceled for March, but there is no order as of yet regarding April on this matter. All naturalization ceremonies are canceled for March and April 2020. Central Violations Bureau initial appearances have been cancelled for March, April, and May 2020. In person hearings are to be converted to telephonic whenever possible, and the Clerk’s Office will work with US Marshals Service and BOP to arrange for video conference hearings with incarcerated individuals. All initial appearances, detention hearings, and arraignments are held by video conference. Electronic filing is still in place. The Clerk’s Office will accept paper pleadings mailed and will answer calls.
- **Middle District of Florida:** On March 13, 2020, Chief Judge Merryday [ordered](#) restrictions on visitors to the United States courthouses in the Middle District of Florida. The order prohibits the following categories of persons from entering the courthouse: (a) a person with, or who has had contact with anyone with COVID-19, influenza, or any other readily

communicable respiratory disease; (b) a person who has been asked to self-quarantine; (c) a person who has traveled within 14 days to or from China, Italy, Iran, South Korea, Spain, Germany, France, or anywhere subject to a quarantine; (d) a person who has resided with, or has been near, anyone who has traveled to or from one of the nations or places within 14 days; or (e) a person experiencing a fever, unusual cough, unusual shortness of breath, or other flu-like symptoms. Further, the public intake areas in the Clerk's Office in the Middle District of Florida are closed until further notice.

- **Southern District of Florida:** District Court including the United States Probation Office, will reduce staffing at all Courthouse locations and Probation offices, to a level necessary to maintain essential operations. All other employees are placed on telework status effective immediately. The Clerk of Court and Chief Probation Officer shall exercise discretion in designating which employees, on a rotational basis, are necessary to maintain essential operations at each Courthouse location and Probation office. The Clerk's Office public Intake windows will be open only between the hours of 9:30–10:30 a.m. and 3:30–4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. The Magistrate window will be open during normal business hours for new arrests and posting of bonds only. This Order shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.
 - The United States Courthouses in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, Fort Pierce, and Key West, including Bankruptcy Court and Probation, will remain open for business, with reduced staffing, to a level to maintain essential operations, consistent with Administrative Order 2020-20 and subject to the following limitations.
 - All jury trials in the Southern District of Florida scheduled to begin on or after March 30, 2020, until April 27, 2020, are continued pending further Order of the Court. The Court may issue other Orders concerning future continuances as necessary and appropriate.
 - All trial-specific deadlines in criminal cases scheduled to begin before April 27, 2020, are continued pending further Order of the Court. Individual judges may continue trial-specific deadlines in civil cases in the exercise of their discretion.

- Individual judges presiding over criminal proceedings may take such actions consistent with this Order as may be lawful and appropriate to ensure the fairness of the proceedings and preserve the rights of the parties.
- The Court is cognizant of the right of criminal defendants to a speedy and public trial under the Sixth Amendment, and the particular application of that right in cases involving defendants who are detained pending trial. Any motion by a criminal defendant seeking an exception to this Order in order to exercise that right should be directed to the District Judge assigned to the matter in the first instance; provided, however, that no such exception may be ordered without the approval of the Chief Judge after consultation with the Court.
- Absent further Order of the Court or any individual judge, the period of exclusion shall be from March 30, 2020, to April 27, 2020. The Court may extend the period of exclusion as circumstances may warrant.
- Individual judges may continue to hold hearings, conferences, and bench trials in the exercise of their discretion.
- Judges are strongly encouraged to conduct court proceedings by telephone or videoconferencing where practicable.
- Criminal matters before Magistrate Judges, such as initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings, and the issuance of search warrants, shall continue to take place in the ordinary course.
- Grand juries are continued until April 27, 2020
- The Clerk's Office, Probation, the Bankruptcy Court, and all other Court services shall remain open with reduced staffing, at a level to maintain essential operations, consistent with Administrative Order 2020-20
- Pursuant to CARES Act, through June 28 or the end of the COVID emergency period, judges are authorized, with consent of defendant or juvenile after consultation with counsel, to hold the following hearings via videoconference or telephonically:

- (A) Detention hearings under section 3142 of title 18, United States Code.
 - (B) Initial appearances under Rule 5 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.
 - (C) Preliminary hearings under Rule 5.1 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.
 - (D) Waivers of indictment under Rule 7(b) 24 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.
 - (E) Arraignments under Rule 10 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.
 - (F) Probation and supervised release revocation proceedings under Rule 32.1 of the 5 Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.
 - (G) Pretrial release revocation proceedings under section 3148 of title 18, United States Code.
 - (H) Appearances under Rule 40 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.
 - (I) Misdemeanor pleas and sentencings as described in Rule 43(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.
 - (J) Proceedings under chapter 403 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the "Federal Juvenile Delinquency Act"), except for contested transfer hearings and juvenile delinquency adjudication or trial proceedings.
- Federal guilty pleas cannot be held in person
- **Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals:** The United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit has gathered its [orders related to COVID-19 here](#). The Court's [order of March 20](#) authorizes appeals panels to hear any or all oral arguments by audio or teleconferencing, and provides that oral arguments should be live-streamed to the public where feasible. The order does not apply to arguments in national security cases or other cases that would not otherwise be heard publicly. The order remains in effect until rescinded.

Georgia

Trial Courts: On March 14, 2020 Chief Justice Melton issued [an order declaring a statewide judicial emergency](#). As relevant to civil matters, the order suspends, tolls, extends and grants relief from all deadlines, time schedules or time related filing requirements for criminal or civil cases. This includes statutes of limitation, time to complete discovery, time to serve a party, time within which to appeal or seek the right to appeal any order, and other deadlines. The order expires at 11:59 p.m. on April 13, 2020 unless extended. Note that this Emergency Order applies to **all** state courts in Georgia, although most have also issued their own orders, such as those issued by the counties below:

- **Chattahoochee County.** Chief Judge Bemon McBride [declared a judicial emergency](#) in five counties (including Chattahoochee, Harris, Marion, Muscogee, Talbot, and Taylor) canceling jury trials and ordering that no jurors or grand jurors report through March 27, 2020. The order also suspended all civil, domestic, and criminal docket calls but does not apply to non-jury criminal, civil, or domestic hearing, motion, and plea calendars.
- **Clayton County.** Chief Judge Gerona Carter issued an order on March 18, 2020 declaring a [judicial emergency in the circuit](#). No trials will be held, and no civil or non-essential matters will be heard until at least April 13, 2020, unless they can be conducted via video or teleconferencing.
- **Cobb County.** Chief Judge Reuben Green issued an order on March 18, 2020 [summarizing that circuit's response](#) to the emergency declared by Justice Melton. All civil and non-essential hearings and calendars in superior and [state court](#) have been cancelled until after the judicial emergency. The County's COVID-19 update page is available [here](#).
- **DeKalb County.** Chief Judge Asha Jackson issued an order on March 13, 2020 declaring a [judicial emergency in the circuit](#). All jury trials were cancelled for at least thirty (30) days and all non-essential matters were continued (unless they could be continued by phone). All non-essential civil matters have been postponed in state and magistrate court. As of March 21, 2020, the clerk of [superior, state, and magistrate](#) courts are closed for in-person services until April 13, 2020, but can provide assistance via telephone or online.
- **Fulton County.** Chief Judge Christopher Brasher entered an order on March 13, 2020 declaring a judicial emergency in the circuit. All jury trials

were cancelled for at least thirty days and all non-essential matters were continued (unless they could be continued by phone). All non-essential civil matters have been postponed in state and magistrate court. The North and South Annexes have been closed. Emergency information also be obtained from the [state](#) and [magistrate](#) courts.

- **Gwinnett County.** Chief Judge George Hutchison entered an order on March 13, 2020 declaring a [judicial emergency in the circuit](#), suspending jury trials for two weeks and directing jurors and grand jurors not to report. The order also suspended all civil and nonessential court matters for two weeks. No new garnishment filings will be accepted by magistrate, state or superior court while the emergency is in place. The Gwinnett County clerk's offices are open but providing only [socially distanced services](#) through April 13, 2020. E-filing is available 24/7 but a single filing window is open for criminal pleading.

Courts of Appeal:

- **Supreme Court of Georgia.** All filing deadlines have been suspended through 11:59 p.m. on April 13, 2020. Thereafter, a party or counsel will have the same amount of time to file a brief that they had remaining when the order went into effect on March 14. Oral arguments the week of April 20 will be conducted via videoconference (a first for the Court) and will be livestreamed via Internet. The Court's coronavirus resource page can be found [here](#).
- **Georgia Court of Appeals.** The Court remains operational. April oral arguments have been postponed and attorney admissions will occur remotely. Though deadlines are tolled by Justice Melton's emergency order, parties are encouraged to comply with existing deadlines where possible. The Court's message on the COVID-19 outbreak can be found [here](#) and the Court's more general announcement/news page is located [here](#).

Federal District Courts:

- In the **Northern District of Georgia**, the Atlanta, Rome, Newnan and Gainesville courthouses remain open, although access is limited based on risk for COVID-19 exposure. On March 16, 2020, all jury trials and related deadlines [were continued for 30 days](#). Individual cases that do not require a jury are proceeding at the discretion of judges. Many judges are issuing orders implementing their own response to the outbreaks.
- In the **Middle District of Georgia**, the court is open for business with limited courthouse access, though jury trials [are prohibited](#) until at least May 15, 2020.
- In the **Southern District of Georgia**, the court is open for business with limited courthouse access. The district's [standing order](#) regarding COVID-19 does not *require* a continuance of jury trials, though individual judges have discretion to do so.

The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals: The Eleventh Circuit has issued [General Order No. 44](#), restricting courthouse access and modifying its paper filing requirement to excuse filings by those diagnosed with COVID-19 or who have potentially been exposed. The Court has also entered [an order](#) permitting oral argument to be heard by audio or teleconferencing. Where feasible, those arguments will be livestreamed, but in any event they will be posted on the Court's website.

Indiana

Trial Courts: Under a [March 16 order](#) on emergency relief directed trial courts to consider whether local needs required tolling of speedy trial laws and rules in criminal cases; suspending or rescheduling civil jury trials (subject to speedy trial rights); suspending juror orientations; continuing hearings or using telephone or video technology in lieu of in-person hearings; as well as other measures to limit congregation in courtrooms and courthouses.

Court of Appeals: The Supreme Court's orders addressed below also apply to cases in the Court of Appeals.

Supreme Court: In a [March 23 order](#) the Indiana Supreme Court tolled all laws, rules, and procedures setting time limits for appellate filings through April 6; suspended rules regarding physical filing of appeal briefs; and directed that all briefs be filed electronically or via United States Mail.

On [March 25](#), the Supreme Court issued an additional order specifying that

- Filings due by April 6 are now due by April 21
- Filings due between April 7 and April 21 now will be due 15 days after their current due date.
- Advised counsel that if more time is needed than granted by the order they must move for an extension of time.

Federal District Courts:

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, in a [March 20](#) order, continued all jury trials; converted all in-person hearings to telephone or video conferences; closed courthouses to the general public and instituted screening procedures for those still eligible to enter courthouses. The Court is keeping its orders related to COVID-19 [here](#).

The United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, in a [March 18](#) order, closed courthouses to the general public; ordered necessary hearings and proceedings to be conducted by telephone or video; and directed those without access to efilings to file documents via United States Mail. A [March 20](#) order clarified that the closure ordered on March 18 was "open-ended."

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals: On [March 18](#) the court initiated its Continuity of Operations Plan to maintain emergency operations. All staff unable

to telework were placed on administrative leave. [Notices posted](#) on the court's website advised that all oral arguments through April will be conducted by telephone, as will all mediations scheduled through April.

Kentucky

Trial Courts: Closed to routine business through April 24 pursuant to [Supreme Court Administrative Order 2020-13](#). Online filing still permitted throughout the state. Trial judges are being urged to conduct hearings on “emergency or time-sensitive” matters by telephone or video technology unless the parties are unable to participate remotely, in which in person courtroom attendance is limited to 10 people.

No general suspension of statutes of limitation or case deadlines, although with the suspension of trials, trial-related deadlines will likely be revised pursuant to motion after the courts have reopened to general business.

Court of Appeals of Kentucky: The Court of Appeals of Kentucky has not held oral arguments since March 17. Its next oral argument is scheduled for April 7, but may be rescheduled in light of Supreme Court Administrative Order 2020-13.

Supreme Court of Kentucky: The Kentucky Supreme Court [has restricted proceedings](#) to observe social distancing. The Court has cancelled oral arguments scheduled for March. It has not released an April oral argument schedule as of March 28.

Federal District Courts:

- The **Eastern District of Kentucky** is closed to routine business through May 1 pursuant to [General Order 20-03](#). The Eastern District of Kentucky is continuing to accept electronic filings, and emergency hearings are to be conducted by telephone or video. The federal courthouse in Lexington will be closed to the general public beginning March 30 until further notice under [General Order 20-04](#). This order does not apply to other federal courthouses in the Eastern District of Kentucky.
- The **Western District of Kentucky** is closed through May 1 pursuant to [General Order 2020-03](#). The Eastern District of Kentucky is continuing to accept electronic filings, and emergency hearings are to be conducted by telephone or video.

The U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals: In response to COVID-19, the Sixth Circuit issued a [Notice](#) on March 16 which (i) postpones oral arguments (unless parties have been otherwise directed), and (ii) temporarily suspends the requirement that non-prisoner *pro se* litigants file in paper format until April 17,

and allows them to e-mail documents in PDF format for processing. The Court will otherwise continue to normal operations with the Clerk's Office staff working in the office and via telework.

Maine

Trial Courts: Maine has closed its courts to the public until May 1, 2020, statewide, except for matters involving temporary restraining orders; abuse prevention orders; child protection matters; emergency guardianship hearings; and criminal arraignments and detention hearings.

Statewide, jury trials and all nonjury civil matters are continued and will not be scheduled or heard through May 1, 2020.

The trial courts have extended all deadlines set by court rule or court order by 49 calendar days, effective March 17, 2020. This extension does not apply to statutory deadlines, including statutes of limitations.

Supreme Judicial Court of Maine: The Supreme Judicial Court has cancelled oral arguments scheduled in April 2020. Matters scheduled for argument in April 2020 will be decided on the briefs. By motion parties may request argument, which will be rescheduled for a date in or after September 2020.

The Supreme Judicial Court has extended all deadlines set by court rule or court order by 49 calendar days, effective March 17, 2020. This extension does not apply to statutory deadlines.

The Maine Judicial Branch is maintaining a web page with updated notices regarding closings and cancellations:

<https://www.courts.maine.gov/COVID19.shtml>.

Federal District Courts:

Effective through May 1, 2020 the United States District Court for the District of Maine is operating under series of orders related to COVID-19. The Court is maintaining a web page with updated notices:

<https://www.med.uscourts.gov/COVID-19-coronavirus>.

All jury trials and in-person civil and criminal proceedings scheduled to commence on or before May 1, 2020 are continued. The Court will handle in-person hearings for presentment of new arrests, detention hearings, grand jury returns, and civil matters requiring a prompt hearing under Fed. R. Civ. P. 65. The Court may in its discretion hear certain matters via video or teleconference, and the parties will be promptly notified through the CM/ECF system.

The First Circuit Court of Appeals:

According to [this online notice](#), the sitting of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit scheduled for April 6 through April 9, 2020 is cancelled. Any non-emergency filing (e.g., briefs (including paper copies), appendices, and petitions for rehearing) due to be filed between March 26, 2020 and April 24, 2020 in a case before the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit that (1) is not presently calendared for oral argument, (2) has not been argued before a panel, or (3) is otherwise not expedited, is automatically extended for 30 additional days, as long as the deadline is one within the court's power to extend. See Fed. R. App. P. 26(b). Due dates for notices of appeal, petitions for review, and any document that confers jurisdiction on this Court are set by statute or rule and are unaffected by this notice. The Clerk's Office for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit will not accept in-person case filings at its intake window, until further notice.

Maryland

Trial Courts and other courts of original jurisdiction:

- **District Courts:** Effective March 16, 2020, Maryland courts closed to the public; however, the courts will continue to hear certain types of emergency matters. Most courthouses are operating with essential staff only.
- **Circuit Courts:** Effective March 16, 2020, Maryland courts closed to the public; however, the courts will continue to hear certain types of emergency matters. Most courthouses are operating with essential staff only.
- **Orphans Court:** Effective March 16, 2020, Maryland courts closed to the public; however, the courts will continue to hear certain types of emergency matters. Most courthouses are operating with essential staff only.

Court of Appeals and Court of Special Appeals: Effective March 16, 2020, Maryland courts closed to the public; however, the courts will continue to hear certain types of emergency matters. Most courthouses are operating with essential staff only.

Federal District Courts:

The **United States District Court for the District of Maryland** has issued [Standing Order 2020-05](#) concerning court operations under the exigent circumstances created by COVID-19.

As detailed in the Order, all civil, criminal, and bankruptcy proceedings in the District of Maryland, including court appearances, trials, hearings, settlement conferences, conference calls, naturalization and admission ceremonies, and grand jury meetings now scheduled to occur from March 16, 2020, through April 24, 2020, are POSTPONED and will be rescheduled at a later date, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge in an individual case directing that a particular proceeding will be held on or before April 24, 2020.

In addition, all filing deadlines for all cases now set to fall between March 16, 2020, and April 24, 2020, are EXTENDED by forty-two days, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge in an individual case.

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals: According to [Notice of Standing Order 20-01](#), from March 23, 2020, The Powell Courthouse is closed and papers to be

filed with the court may be stamped and filed in the lobby. Attorneys should file papers through ECF, and the court has suspended the requirement of filing of paper copies.

The Court will re-schedule oral argument in cases scheduled for March 17-20, 2020. Counsel will receive orders in those cases and will be provided additional guidance regarding rescheduling.

As of March 23, the court suspended its oral argument requirement for published opinions. Accordingly, cases calendared for oral argument in March or April 2020 but not presented at oral argument may be decided by published opinion with the unanimous consent of the panel.

Massachusetts

Trial Courts: The courts are operating on an emergency-only basis per an order from the Supreme Judicial Court. These [orders](#) are currently in force through April 6, 2020. Therefore, only emergency matters that cannot be held via teleconference or videoconference are the only matters being heard in-person at the courthouses. Clerks' offices are open only to receive emergency filings. Trials that were scheduled between March 17 and April 17 were continued to no later than April 21, unless the parties agree the case can be decided without an in-person appearance in court (i.e., a videoconference bench trial).

The trial courts have issued various orders letting attorneys know what constitutes emergency matters versus non-emergency matters. The Superior Court has issued an [order](#) containing the following directives (among others):

- A hearing for a temporary restraining order is an emergency matter, but not many other civil motions or cases are emergencies;
- Jury trials commenced prior to March 18, 2020 were granted a mistrial;
- Statute of limitations are tolled between March 17, 2020 and April 21, 2020; and
- Any deadlines set to expire under any statute, standing order, or guidance prior to April 21, 2020 are extended at least through that date.

Appeals Court: The Appeals Court [cancelled hearings](#) for April and is going to rule on all April matters on the papers unless counsel is notified further. Hearings for May are still currently scheduled. Guidelines regarding filing and extensions can be found [here](#).

Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court: No official order has been issued regarding the operations of the Supreme Judicial Court during the COVID-19 pandemic. Details of the numerous notices and orders issued by the Supreme Judicial Court regarding impacts and changes to trial court operations issued can be accessed [here](#).

Federal District Courts:

The **District Court of Massachusetts** pursuant limited access by the public to its facilities. All jury trials scheduled prior to April 27, 2020, have been continued pursuant to [General Order 20-2](#).

The First Circuit Court of Appeals: According to [this online notice](#), the sitting of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit scheduled for April 6

through April 9, 2020 is cancelled. Any non-emergency filing (e.g., briefs (including paper copies), appendices, and petitions for rehearing) due to be filed between March 26, 2020 and April 24, 2020 in a case before the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit that (1) is not presently calendared for oral argument, (2) has not been argued before a panel, or (3) is otherwise not expedited, is automatically extended for 30 additional days, as long as the deadline is one within the court's power to extend. See Fed. R. App. P. 26(b). Due dates for notices of appeal, petitions for review, and any document that confers jurisdiction on this Court are set by statute or rule and are unaffected by this notice. The Clerk's Office for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit will not accept in-person case filings at its intake window, until further notice. A copy of the Order can be found [here](#).

New Hampshire

Trial Courts: Per [order](#) of the New Hampshire Supreme Court dated March 16, 2020, all in-person proceedings were suspended from March 16 through April 6, except constitutional matters of criminal defendants, matters involving orders of protection from domestic violence and protection of children, and emergency matters. Hearings and conferences to be conducted by telephone or video “or other means that do not involve person-to-person contact.” Online filing of materials remains available.

All deadlines set forth in court rules, court orders, statutes (including statutes of limitation and repose), ordinances, administrative rules, orders, or otherwise – including injunctions and orders of protection – set to expire between March 16 and April 6 were extended to April 7, but such deadlines not set to expire between those dates are not affected.

The New Hampshire Supreme Court [amended](#) that order on March 28 to extend the stay on all deadlines above – including all jury trials – through May 3 “and/or until the last day of a Declared State of Emergency.”

Supreme Court: The Supreme Court is New Hampshire’s only appellate court. Per the above [order](#), in-person proceedings (with the exceptions noted above) are suspended through April 6. The order remains in effect through 8:00 a.m. April 7 but contemplates renewal.

Federal District Court: By [order](#) dated March 20, both the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire Court and Bankruptcy Court are closed to the public until further notice except for hearings that can only be held in person. Hearings will be by telephone or video where possible. The clerk’s office is closed to the public. Online filing remains as normal, and the court judges and staff will be working as usual. Civil and criminal jury trials are postponed until after May 1, as are all grand jury proceedings. That order amends and supersedes the original order entered March 15.

The First Circuit Court of Appeals: According to [this online notice](#), the sitting of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit scheduled for April 6 through April 9, 2020 is cancelled. Any non-emergency filing (e.g., briefs (including paper copies), appendices, and petitions for rehearing) due to be filed between March 26, 2020 and April 24, 2020 in a case before the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit that (1) is not presently calendared for oral argument, (2) has not been argued before a panel, or (3) is otherwise not expedited, is automatically extended for 30 additional days, as long as the deadline is one within the court's power to extend. See Fed. R. App. P. 26(b). Due dates for notices

of appeal, petitions for review, and any document that confers jurisdiction on this Court are set by statute or rule and are unaffected by this notice.

New Jersey

Trial Courts: The New Jersey Supreme Court issued a further Order on [March 27](#) confirming and extending the prior Orders of March 12, 15, 17 and 19. The March 27, 2020 Order provides that all jury trials across the state remain postponed until further notice. The Electronic Filing System remains open and filings on matters remain active. However, no in-person filings are permitted.

Closings are being handled on a local basis. The Supreme Court is maintaining a [“Closings Page”](#) where current closings are listed. For those who may need it, the page offers text alerts.

While the Court System otherwise remains active, the March 27, 2020 Order extends several deadlines. The initial service of suit deadlines, calculation of all discovery deadlines, calendaring of arbitration hearings, summary judgment deadlines, and initial trial notices are all extended from March 16, 2020 through April 26, 2020.

More specifically, service of the initial Summons and Complaint has been extended from within 15 days of the issuance of the Track Assignment Order to 60 days from the issuance of the Track Assignment Orders for all initial filings and Track Assignment Orders entered by the Court from March 16, 2020 to April 26, 2020.

All civil arbitrations through April 26, 2020 are postponed. As of April 27, 2020, civil arbitrations will be re-listed in chronological order. All parties are permitted to participate by video and/or telephone conference to be initiated by the Arbitrator. Arbitrations may be conducted at locations other than the Courthouse upon consent of the parties and the Court. Any extension requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

The Rules permitting the automatic 60-day extension of discovery deadlines as well as any current deadlines to file a motion to extend the discovery end date are extended through April 26, 2020.

In computing discovery end dates going forward, the time from March 16, 2020 to April 26, 2020 is to be excluded.

All time periods for completing routine discovery, including but not limited to interrogatories, document requests, inspections of documents and property, physical and mental examinations of persons, and request for admissions are extended through April 26, 2020. (Note this does not specifically refer to depositions.)

All summary judgment motion deadlines, and all initial trial notices are also extended through April 26, 2020.

Deadlines for filing disclosures for Affidavits of Merit for professional malpractice cases are extended from March 16, 2020 to April 26, 2020.

Dismissals for lack of prosecution or entry of default are tolled from March 16, 2020 to April 26, 2020.

Special Civil and District Court trial calendars are suspended until April 26, 2020, or until further notice. Default dates in any Special Civil or District Court matters are extended to April 26, 2020.

Landlord/Tenant Court calendars are suspended to April 26, 2020.

The time to serve Notice of Tort Claims is tolled from March 16, 2020 to April 26, 2020.

Federal District Court: [By order dated March 16, 2020](#), all civil and criminal jury selections and jury trials in the District of New Jersey scheduled to begin before April 30, 2020 are continued pending further Order of the Court. The Court may issue further Orders concerning future general continuances of any matters. It is keeping all COVID-19 orders [at this page](#).

All deadlines set by Federal or Local Rules or Court Order, including, but not limited to, scheduling orders in all civil and criminal cases, remain in effect unless modified by further Order of the Court or by Order of the assigned judicial officer.

Any dispute over whether discovery can be effectively accomplished in a manner consistent with applicable health guidelines may be referred to the Magistrate Judge for resolution. Judicial officers may apply the principles of flexibility and accommodation to reasonable requests for filing or scheduling adjustments necessitated by reasonable and fact-based travel, health or safety concerns, or advice or directives of public health officials.

Aside from ordering a jury trial, individual judicial officers may continue to hold hearings, conferences and bench trials in the exercise of their sound discretion, and consistent with the principles of this Order and the sound administration of justice.

All judicial officers are encouraged to conduct proceedings by telephone or videoconferencing where practicable and as permitted by law, and to take reasonable measures to avoid the necessity of out-of-town travel of any litigant, witness, counsel or public.

In furtherance of Court's ADR Policies, the designated ADR neutral in any proceeding is hereby authorized to permit participation in any ADR proceeding by video and/or telephone conference if in his/her judgment such shall be effective and doing so will be minimize travel by any participant.

The Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court for this District shall enter such Orders as deemed appropriate for the conduct of that Court's business.

[Via Standing Order dated March 24, 2020](#), all filing deadlines in civil matters that currently fall between March 25, 2020 and April 30, 2020 are extended by forty-five (45) days, unless the presiding judge in an individual case directs otherwise after the date of this Order. This extension does not apply to any scheduled dates of conferences, which are controlled by the presiding judge.

The Standing Order does not toll or extend any applicable statute of limitations. The Order also states that any litigant in a civil matter may seek relief from this Order in a case which that litigant believes is emergent or otherwise requires immediate relief.

Via Standing [Order dated March 26, 2020](#), it is ordered that both Newark District Courthouses shall be closed from March 26, 2020, through April 6, 2020. No one will be permitted to enter the building during this closure except for authorized cleaning personnel. *This Standing Order does not affect the operation of the two courthouses in the Trenton and Camden Vicinages. The United States District Court for the District of New Jersey otherwise remains open for official business. The Court's Electronic Case Filing (ECF) system is not affected by the closure, and parties may continue to file electronically.*

Third Circuit Court of Appeals: The Third Circuit has issued a statement that: "All courts within the Third United States Judicial Circuit are open and operational, despite a curtailment of certain court functions and the closure of several court facilities" ([Third Circuit Press Release](#)). The only official modification to this is that the federal courthouse in Philadelphia is temporarily closed as two attorneys experiencing symptoms of the virus recently appeared in the courthouse. It will reopen on March 30 after a full cleaning ([Philadelphia Courthouse Closure](#)).

New York

Trial courts and other courts of original jurisdiction: On March 23, 2020, Chief Judge DiFiore issued an update on the operation of the New York State Court system. She indicated that the Courts are following [Executive Order 202.8](#) that suspends and tolls the statute of limitations for the commencement or filing of legal actions as well as the time limits governing all actions and proceedings in the civil, criminal, family, surrogate, and appellate courts.

The State Courts are also not accepting any court filings that are not related to essential court matters. Regarding civil litigation, the Court has defined essential matters as applications addressing landlord lockouts, serious code violations, repairs orders, post eviction relief, extreme risk protection orders, temporary orders of protections, emergency applications related to the COVID-19 virus, and election law applications. Other essential matters are related to criminal and family court proceedings.

State courts must abide by the policies and the administrative orders established by Chief Judge DiFiore with minor adjustments. Below, is the essential operational information for Nassau and Suffolk County, as well as New York City Courts.

- **Nassau:** As of March 16, 2020, default judgment will not be granted and all matters will be heard in the Nassau County Court in Mineola, New York. All non-essential matters are administratively adjourned until at least April 30, 2020. For purposes of civil litigation, essential matters include Orders to Show Cause, Isolation and Quarantine Matters, Applications for orders of protection, and mental hygiene applications.
- **Suffolk:** As of March 22, 2020, all Court functions will take place in the Cohalan Complex in Central Islip. Only essential matters as described above, will be heard, unless there is another matter that the Court deems essential that was not listed. If an attorney or pro-se litigant files an action that is not does not comply with the categories that are listed above, the Supreme Court Clerk's Office must be notified of the filing by telephone and further instructions will be provided to the applicant. Additionally, all appearances will be made by Skype video conferencing, unless otherwise permitted by Court.
- **New York City Courts:** As discussed above, New York City Courts will remain open for essential matters only.

Appellate Divisions of the Supreme Court: Appellate courts are subject to [Executive Order 202.8](#) which has suspended all time limits governing all actions and proceedings. For specific and the most up-to-date information regarding each Appellate District's COVID-19 emergency procedures, please visit the court websites below:

- [First Appellate Division](#)
- [Second Appellate Division](#)
- [Third Appellate Division](#)
- [Fourth Appellate Division](#)

New York Court of Appeals: The Court of Appeals has suspended oral arguments for March 2020. The Clerk will contact attorneys with additional information regarding pending appeals. All parties will be notified if there are further modifications to the April and May oral argument calendars. The most up-to-date information can be found on the court's website [here](#).

Federal District Courts:

- The **Southern District of New York** issued a memorandum titled, "[COVID-19 Protocols](#)" on March 20, which has since been modified by a [Notice effective March 30](#), further curtailing operations. Pursuant to the most recent Notice, the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse is closed to all S.D.N.Y. activities other than grand jury matters. The Moynihan Courthouse at 500 Pearl Street/200 Worth Street will be open, but only for time-sensitive criminal matters and matters in which immediate relief is sought under Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(b). All jury calls have been suspended until June 1. The Charles L. Brieant Courthouse in White Plains remains open for emergency civil matters, and in-court appearances are strictly limited to these matters. Non-emergency civil court operations may go forward at the discretion of the individual judge. Judges have been asked to post orders of general applicability extending time in civil cases. Attorneys should check the web pages of the individual judges for more information.
- The **Northern District of New York** issued [General Order No. 58](#), continuing all jury trials scheduled through April 30, pending further order. The Court will continue to consider and resolve motions not requiring oral argument, or that can be handled by video or telephone conference. Order does not affect the Court's consideration of civil or criminal motions that

can be resolved without oral argument or handled by telephone or video conference.

- The **Eastern District of New York** has issued a [series of orders](#) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Jury trials scheduled to begin before April 27 are continued pending further order. Judges may continue to conduct hearings and conferences within the parameters of the orders but are encouraged to conduct proceedings by video and telephone conference.
- The **Western District of New York** issued a [General Order](#) on March 13 continuing all trials for 60 days. Pursuant to the order, the court will continue to resolve motions not requiring oral argument or personal appearances. The order also encourages judges “to reduce personal appearances as much as practicable.”

Second Circuit Court of Appeals: Only those with business at the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit will be granted admission into the courthouse building until further order of the Court. However, the Court issued a series of [orders](#) designed to minimize the disruption of court proceedings as much as possible. The regular argued appeals and motions calendars are continuing to be heard as scheduled. However, beginning on March 23, 2020 and until further notice from the Court, all oral arguments and motions will be heard via a Court provided teleconference platform. Alternatively, parties may request to have their appeal submitted for determination on the briefs. Furthermore, as of March 16, 2020, the Court ordered a 21-day extension of time for all filings and deadlines between March 16, 2020 and May 17, 2020. For example, a brief due on March 18, 2020 is now due on April 8, 2020. This order was further extended from April 6, 2020 through June 5, 2020, meaning a brief due on April 7, 2020 is now due on April 28, 2020. Overall, filings are expected to resume on April 6, 2020, i.e., 21 days after March 16, 2020. Filing dates set specifically by order after March 13, 2020 and the filing date for a notice of appeal or other document that confers jurisdiction on the Court are not covered by this order.

Ohio

Trial Courts: On March 18, a [General Opinion](#) from the Ohio Attorney General explained that all jury trials may be waived by any trial court in the state of Ohio in response to the novel COVID-19 virus. The Supreme Court of Ohio provided its [Guidance to Local Courts](#) advising Trial Courts to waive appearances, extend deadlines, and promote technology and online tools to facilitate any necessary functions. Resources and updates related to Trial Courts and COVID-19 can be found [here](#).

Court of Appeals: The Ohio Courts of Appeals have suspended all jury trials and non-emergency appearances in light of orders from the Governor and [Guidance](#) from the Supreme Court. The Clerk's Offices are open and available by telephone in addition to other electronic resources and e-filing. For any updates from individual District Court of Appeals, please refer to the central website located [here](#).

Supreme Court: In response to a [General Opinion](#) from the Ohio Attorney General and other state and federal orders involving COVID-19, the Supreme Court of Ohio suspended jury trials and released their [Guidance to Local Courts](#). The Supreme Court of Ohio also released an [Administrative Order](#) on March 27 detailing the fact that all non-emergency appearances should be waived, tolling requirements be postponed, and electronic filings and communications should be leveraged wherever possible.

Federal District Courts:

- The **Northern District of Ohio** released an [Amended General Order](#) on March 23 declaring that all courthouses would be closed until May 1 and that all jury trials would be postponed to at least that date as well. The staff of all Clerk's Offices will be available by telephone and all filings and conferences should be completed electronically when possible.
- The **Southern District of Ohio** released a [General Order](#) on March 20 ordering that all courthouses would be closed to the public for 14 days beginning on March 23 unless exigent circumstances demand otherwise. Electronic filings are encouraged in all possible circumstances and Clerk's Offices will be available by telephone for any questions during this temporary closure.

U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals: In response to COVID-19, the Sixth Circuit issued a [Notice](#) on March 16 which (i) postpones oral arguments (unless parties

have been otherwise directed), and (ii) temporarily suspends the requirement that non-prisoner *pro se* litigants file in paper format until April 17, and allows them to e-mail documents in PDF format for processing. The Court will otherwise continue to normal operations with the Clerk's Office staff working in the office and via telework.

Pennsylvania

Trial Courts: On March 18, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court entered a statewide judicial emergency order ([3/18/20 PA Supreme Court Order](#)) which generally held that all Pennsylvania courts are closed to the public beginning March 19 and lasting through at least April 3. As it relates to civil proceedings all facilities at the trial level are closed to the public for nonessential functions through at least April 3. All court calendars, scheduling notices, subpoenas or other court orders compelling the appearance of an attorney, litigator or other participant are postponed until further order of the president judge or the presiding judge at the local court level. Jury and nonjury trials are suspended, and jurors are not to report prior to April 3.

More recently on March 24, the Supreme Court addressed the tolling of the statute of limitations in civil cases and has provided that affirmative actions must be taken to toll the statute and has provided an alternative method to file a praecipe should the appropriate Court of Common Pleas be closed ([Supreme Court SOL Order](#)).

Some of the counties have issued their own orders as noted below:

- **Philadelphia County** - Courts are closed to all, except emergencies which are narrowly defined and for civil purposes only involve COVID-19 related health issues. Any pleading or legal document due to be filed from March 17 through April 6 may be filed from April 7 through April 13, and is deemed timely ([Philadelphia County Order](#)).
- **Chester County** – Jury trials and certain hearing/proceedings are cancelled/suspended through April 13th as well as the courts being closed to the general public for non-essential functions between March 19 through April 13. All court calendars, scheduling notices, subpoenas or other court orders compelling the appearance of any attorney, litigant or other participants in any non-essential case is continued or postponed until April 13. Any in-person pretrial conference, case management conference, status conferences, discovery motions practice, motions practice or other hearing is postponed through April 13th ([Chester County Order](#)). The Order does not address tolling of deadlines.
- **Bucks County** - All courts closed to public between March 19 and April 14. All court calendars, scheduling notices, subpoenas or other court orders compelling appearance are postponed until further notice. Any in-person pretrial conference, case management conference, status conferences, discovery motions practice, motions practice or other hearing is postponed

until a future date, unless they can be handled through technology, then they may and should proceed. All time calculations are suspended through April 3 and deemed timely if filed April 6 ([Bucks County Order](#)).

- **Montgomery County** - Courts are closed except for limited emergency services and deadlines are tolled. This began March 12 and the end date is to be determined ([Montco Order](#)).
- **Delaware County** - The courts are closed, and all calculations for time computation are suspended through and including April 14. All court operations are suspended with emergency exceptions; accepting filings only when necessary to toll Statute of Limitations ([Delco Order](#)).
- **Allegheny County** – All trials and hearings scheduled to take place on or before April 14 are postponed pending further notice, all deadlines are extended through April 14, and conferences are being conducted by phone. Motions can still be filed but cannot be presented at general motions court at least through April 14 ([Allegheny County Order](#)).

Pennsylvania Court of Appeals: All courts of intermediate jurisdiction including the Pennsylvania Superior Court in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania are generally closed pursuant to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court order referenced above ([3/18/20 PA Supreme Court Order](#)). The Superior Court is encouraging filings by PACFile or mail. All hearings scheduled through April 1 are cancelled and will be rescheduled and the Superior Court will issue further notices for arguments scheduled in April and May. The Commonwealth Court is only accepting new filings by PACFile. All hearings scheduled through March 23 have been cancelled. The Commonwealth Court will issue further notices for arguments scheduled in April and May.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court: The Court is generally closed pursuant to its Order ([3/18/20 PA Supreme Court Order](#)). Arguments scheduled through April 23 are cancelled and cases listed for argument before that date will be decided on the briefs unless one of the parties files a motion requesting the rescheduling of oral arguments.

Federal District Courts:

- **The Eastern District of Pennsylvania** is operational but has issued an order addressing COVID-19 procedures ([EDPA Order](#)).

- The **Western District of Pennsylvania** is operational but jury trials have been continued ([WDPA Order](#)).
- The **Middle District of Pennsylvania** has continued jury trials and hearing but continues to operate ([MDPA Order](#)). The Courthouse in Scranton has been closed due to potential exposure but the business of the court continues ([Scranton Courthouse Order](#)).

Third Circuit Court of Appeals: The Third Circuit has issued a statement that: “All courts within the Third United States Judicial Circuit are open and operational, despite a curtailment of certain court functions and the closure of several court facilities” ([Third Circuit Press Release](#)). The only official modification to this is that the federal courthouse in Philadelphia is temporarily closed as two attorneys experiencing symptoms of the virus recently appeared in the courthouse. It will reopen on March 30 after a full cleaning ([Philadelphia Courthouse Closure](#)).

Rhode Island

Trial Courts: The Rhode Island Supreme Court in an [Executive Order](#) has declared that trials and other matters are continued until at least April 17. Only emergency matters are being heard by the courts, which include temporary restraining order petitions and Supreme Court appeals. Court-imposed filing deadlines have been automatically extended 30 days.

Court of Appeals: The Rhode Island Court of Appeals received guidance in the form of an [Executive Order](#) from the Rhode Island Supreme Court that trials and other matters are continued until at least April 17. Deadlines for Appellate Filings and Procedures have been automatically extended 30 days. Any questions or concerns should be addressed telephonically, and all filings and conferences should be completed electronically when possible.

Supreme Court: The Rhode Island Supreme Court released an [Order](#) declaring that all oral arguments be postponed through the month of April and that no in person filings will be accepted. Appellate Procedures have been extended by 30 days as well.

Federal District Courts: In a recent [General Order](#), The Federal District of Rhode Island has currently cancelled all in-person civil matters and is encouraging hearings to go forward via teleconference. For any updates, please refer to the Court's News and Announcements page [here](#).

The First Circuit Court of Appeals: As stipulated by a March 26 [Order](#), the sitting of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit scheduled for April 6 through April 9, 2020 is cancelled. Any non-emergency filing (e.g., briefs (including paper copies), appendices, and petitions for rehearing) due to be filed between March 26, 2020 and April 24, 2020 in a case before the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit that (1) is not presently calendared for oral argument, (2) has not been argued before a panel, or (3) is otherwise not expedited, is automatically extended for 30 additional days, as long as the deadline is one within the court's power to extend. See Fed. R. App. P. 26(b). Due dates for notices of appeal, petitions for review, and any document that confers jurisdiction on this Court are set by statute or rule and are unaffected by this notice. The Clerk's Office for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit will not accept in-person case filings at its intake window, until further notice.

Vermont

Trial Courts: Access to the courthouses is extremely limited and for limited purposes only. Per [order](#) dated March 16, all non-emergency hearings and proceedings are suspended as of March 17 with limited exceptions primarily for criminal and domestic matters. Non-evidentiary hearings can be conducted by telephone without moving for leave. Electronic filing remains available for all trial courts where applicable. Nothing in the order extends statutes of limitation or other deadlines. The March 16 order was amended over the course of the week of March 23, most recently on March 25. That [amendment](#) sets forth the changes to the original order by each amendment.

Supreme Court: The Supreme Court of Vermont is the state's only appellate court. Supreme Court briefs must continue to be filed in paper form. As noted above, no filing deadlines have been extended by the Supreme Court's [order](#), as specifically noted in paragraph 10.

Federal District Courts: Per [order](#) dated March 25, both the United States District Court for the District of Vermont, and Bankruptcy Court are closed to the public until further notice except for hearings that can only be held in person. Hearings will be by telephone or video where possible. The clerk's office is closed to the public. Online filing remains as normal, and the court judges and staff will be working as usual.

The Second Circuit Court of Appeals: Only those with business at the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit will be granted admission into the courthouse building until further order of the Court. However, the Court issued a series of [orders](#) designed to minimize the disruption of court proceedings as much as possible. The regular argued appeals and motions calendars are continuing to be heard as scheduled. However, beginning on March 23, 2020 and until further notice from the Court, all oral arguments and motions will be heard via a Court provided teleconference platform. Alternatively, parties may request to have their appeal submitted for determination on the briefs. Furthermore, as of March 16, 2020, the Court ordered a 21-day extension of time for all filings and deadlines between March 16, 2020 and May 17, 2020. For example, a brief due on March 18, 2020 is now due on April 8, 2020. This order was further extended from April 6, 2020 through June 5, 2020, meaning a brief due on April 7, 2020 is now due on April 28, 2020. Overall, filings are expected to resume on April 6, 2020, i.e., 21 days after March 16, 2020. Filing dates set specifically by order after March 13, 2020 and the filing date for a notice of appeal or other document that confers jurisdiction on the Court are not covered by this order.