

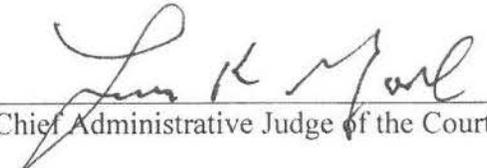
Administrative Orders and Other Information from NYS Courts

- [March 19, 2020 Administrative Order \(Civil Litigation Generally\)](#)
- [March 22, 2020 Administrative Order \(with Exhibit describing "Essential Proceedings"\)](#)
- [March 22, 2020 Press Release, with March 25 Update on Criminal Courts and March 26 Update on Family Courts](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF THE COURTS

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, I hereby promulgate the following protocols to mitigate the adverse effects of the COVID-19 outbreak upon the practice of civil litigation before the courts of the Unified Court System, effective immediately:

1. Civil Litigation Generally: The prosecution of pending civil matters (including discovery) in a manner that requires in-person appearances or travel, or otherwise requires actions inconsistent with prevailing health and safety directives relating to the coronavirus health emergency, is strongly discouraged.
2. Civil Discovery Generally: Where a party, attorney or other person is unable to meet discovery or other litigation schedules (including dispositive motion deadlines) for reasons related to the coronavirus health emergency, the parties shall use best efforts to postpone proceedings by agreement and stipulation for a period not to exceed 90 days. Absent such agreement, the proceedings shall be deferred until such later date when the court can review the matter and issue appropriate directives. In no event will participants in civil litigation be penalized if discovery compliance is delayed for reasons relating to the coronavirus public health emergency.



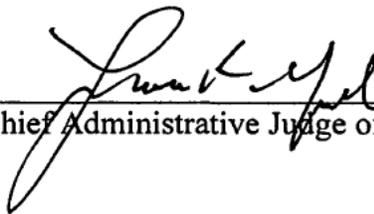
Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts

Dated: March 19, 2020

AO/71/20

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF THE COURTS

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, in light of the emergency circumstances caused by the continuing COVID-19 outbreak in New York State and the nation, and consistent with the Governor of New York's recent executive order suspending statutes of limitation in legal matters, I direct that, effective immediately and until further order, no papers shall be accepted for filing by a county clerk or a court in any matter of a type not included on the list of essential matters attached as Exh. A. This directive applies to both paper and electronic filings.



Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts

Dated: March 22, 2020

AO/78/20

Exhibit A

Essential Proceedings
Administrative Order AO/78/20
March 22, 2020

- A. Criminal matters
 - 1. arraignments
 - 2. bail applications, reviews and writs
 - 3. temporary orders of protection
 - 4. resentencing of retained and incarcerated defendants
 - 5. essential sex offender registration act (SORA) matters

- B. Family Court
 - 1. child protection intake cases involving removal applications
 - 2. newly filed juvenile delinquency intake cases involving remand placement applications, or modification thereof
 - 3. emergency family offense petitions/temporary orders of protection
 - 4. orders to show cause
 - 5. stipulations on submission

- C. Supreme Court
 - 1. Mental Hygiene Law (MHL) applications and hearings addressing patient retention or release
 - 2. MHL hearings addressing the involuntary administration of medication and other medical care
 - 3. newly filed MHL applications for an assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) plan
 - 4. emergency applications in guardianship matters
 - 5. temporary orders of protection (including but not limited to matters involving domestic violence)
 - 6. emergency applications related to the coronavirus
 - 7. emergency Election Law applications
 - 8. extreme risk protection orders (ERPO)

- D. Civil/Housing matters
 - 1. applications addressing landlord lockouts (including reductions in essential services)
 - 2. applications addressing serious code violations
 - 3. applications addressing serious repair orders
 - 4. applications for post-eviction relief

- E. All Courts
 - 1. any other matter that the court deems essential

This list of essential proceedings is subject to ongoing review and amendment as necessary.



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Lawrence K. Marks
Chief Administrative Judge**

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www.nycourts.gov/press

Date: March 22, 2020

Virtual Court Operations to Commence in NYC Mid-week

*New York State Courts Remain Open for Business,
Maintaining All Essential and Emergency Proceedings*

NEW YORK—Extraordinary times like these call for extraordinary measures. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the New York State court system is instituting various temporary measures to reduce courtroom density and stem the spread of the Coronavirus. Chief Judge Janet DiFiore and Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks today announced that beginning on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 and Thursday, March 26, 2020, virtual court operations will commence, respectively, in New York City Criminal Court and New York City Family Court.

“As we continue to calibrate court operations to meet the continually challenging and changing operational environment, the New York State court system remains open for business, maintaining essential and emergency operations. In order to help reduce the spread of the virus and to further protect Judges, court staff, attorneys, litigants and the public, by mid-week essential functions of New York City Criminal Court and New York City Family Court will commence virtual operations,” said Chief Judge DiFiore.

New York City Criminal Court

Effective March 25, 2020, New York City Criminal Court will move toward its second phase of videoconferencing arraignments. Under this phase, all parties will participate in court proceedings by videoconferencing using Skype for Business. While the arraignment part will be open to the public, uniformed staff will monitor and may limit access to the arraignment part's audience space to maintain social distancing in accordance with public health authorities' guidelines.

All arraignments will be virtual, with the Judge, prosecution and defense attorney and defendant all from remote locations.

Non-COVID-19-involved defendants—those who have not tested positive for COVID-19 or are not in a high-risk group—will be brought to the central booking location in Bronx, Kings, New York and Queens Counties and will participate via video link in those locations. Richmond County defendants will be brought to NYPD holding cells at 26 Central Avenue to participate in video arraignment there.

COVID-19-involved defendants—those who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are in a high-risk group—will be detained pre-arraignment to participate in video arraignments as follows: Midtown Community Court for Bronx and Manhattan arraignments; and Red Hook Community Justice Center for Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island arraignments.

NYC Family Court:

Effective Thursday, March 26, 2020—in order to mitigate and contain the ongoing spread of coronavirus while at the same time continuing to provide critical emergency relief to the children and families the court serves—the New York City Family Court will hear by remote video appearances and/or by telephone the following matters:

- Child-protective intake cases involving removal applications
- Newly-filed juvenile delinquency intake cases involving remand applications
- Emergency family offense petitions
- Writ applications where there is a court order of custody or parenting time

Additionally, due to the suspension of civil statutes of limitation by the Governor's executive order 202.8, effective immediately, all new Court filings, either e-filed or hard copy, that are not essential matters, will NOT be accepted.

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