

Vermont Supreme Court Declares Judicial Emergency

[View this email in your browser](#)



**For Immediate Release:
Monday, March 16, 2020**

**Contact: Patricia Gabel, Esq., Vermont State Court Administrator
Office of the State Court Administrator
(802) 828-3278
Patricia.Gabel@vermont.gov**

Vermont Supreme Court Declares Judicial Emergency Suspends All Non-Emergency Superior Court Hearings

Montpelier, VT - On March 16, 2020, the Vermont Supreme Court declared a Judicial Emergency due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. The Emergency will extend until April 15, 2020, unless further extended by order of the Court. Notwithstanding any rule or timeline inconsistent with the Emergency Order, all nonemergency Superior Court hearings, whether evidentiary or non-evidentiary, will be postponed. The Order cites specific exceptions for high-priority cases that must be heard. All Judicial Bureau hearings are postponed.

For those non-evidentiary proceedings that do go forward because they are one of the exceptions to the Order, parties and counsel may participate remotely by telephone without seeking permission by motion. Where feasible, parties may participate by video appearance as approved by the judge. Parties or counsel must make advance arrangements to appear by video.

Appearance by telephone or video for evidentiary hearings will continue to be governed by existing rules.

The Emergency Order describes when email filings may be acceptable and when electronic filing is required.

From the date of the Emergency Order until March 30, 2020, no person will be permitted to enter a courthouse except for the purposes outlined in the Order; and, then, only if they pass screening questions related to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic.

Read the full Emergency Order and other updates regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and court operations at www.vermontjudiciary.org/COVID19.

###



Our mailing address is:

Vermont Judiciary
Office of the Court Administrator
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0701
USA