

## NOTICE TO THE BAR

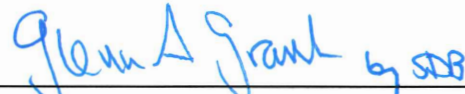
### EMERGENT APPLICATIONS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS – WEBPAGE; NEW VICINAGE EMAIL MAILBOXES FOR ATTORNEYS AND LITIGANTS

The Supreme Court has approved interim procedures for use during the COVID-19 crisis to support prompt filing and handling of certain emergent applications that cannot be filed electronically, including making available the option of submitting such emergent applications by email. The Court's March 24, 2020 Order is attached. The order also authorizes the temporary suspension of the collection of filing fees where the filing is by a self-represented litigant or by an attorney who does not maintain a collateral account with the Judiciary.

To ensure continued access to our courts, the Judiciary has created Vicinage-level email mailboxes (e.g., [AtlEmergent.Mailbox@njcourts.gov](mailto:AtlEmergent.Mailbox@njcourts.gov)) for attorneys and parties to use to submit applications for emergent relief during this public health emergency. Links to these emergent application mailboxes along with instructions for filing various types of emergent applications are posted on the [Judiciary's public website](#). Designated staff will receive and promptly review the emails so that emergent matters can be scheduled before a judge without delay.

The new temporary option of email filing is designed to support submission of emergent applications that cannot be filed through eCourts or promptly received on paper. It is not intended to substitute for existing methods of filing and payment, including through eCourts where available and through mail or hand delivery for matters that are not emergent.

The Judiciary will continue to post current information about COVID-19 related court operations, including options for emergent applications on our webpage ([njcourts.gov](http://njcourts.gov)).



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Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.

Dated: March 24, 2020

## **SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY**

In response to the growing public health crisis worldwide and in this state involving the COVID-19 coronavirus, the New Jersey Judiciary continues to implement all possible measures to apply social distancing in court operations consistent with the recommendations of the New Jersey Department of Health (“NJ DOH”) and the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”).

The Judiciary accordingly has closed court buildings to the public and adjusted the operations of court offices, including to strategically delay the processing of mail and mailed payments so as to reduce the risk of possible contact with the virus on mailed or delivered documents.

While electronic filings are continuing without interruption, paper filings sent by mail or hand-delivered to a designated drop-box also may be delayed due to these operational adjustments necessitated by the COVID-19 public health crisis.

The New Jersey Judiciary recognizes that the ongoing public health crisis will not obviate the need for emergency applications to our courts, and that the current and foreseeable circumstances may increase risks to populations who must be able to apply immediately for legal relief.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that effective immediately and until further court order, applications for emergent relief, defined as involving the potential for immediate and irreparable harm if the matter is not promptly addressed, will continue to be accepted in all courts (including the Appellate Division), either (a) through existing electronic filing and payment processes or (b) where the application cannot be filed electronically, through alternate methods, including but not limited to email submission and other processes as approved by the Administrative Director of the

Courts, with the collection of fees for these emergent applications filed through alternate methods being suspended as necessary in order to avoid unnecessary delay in handling emergent matters.

For the Court,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shant Palmer", is written over the text "For the Court,".

Chief Justice

Dated: March 24, 2020