

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
10TH Judicial District - Nassau County



MEMORANDUM

To: Nassau County Legal Community

From: Norman St. George, Administrative Judge, 10th Judicial District

Date: March 26, 2020

Re: Update and Current Plans for Virtual Courts throughout the State

First, I hope each of you and your families are safe, in good health, and that anyone affected by the Corona Virus has a speedy recovery. We are in unprecedented and extraordinary times and I thank each of you for your continued support of the Court community.

In response to the Coronavirus crisis, Chief Judge DiFiore has made it a priority to dramatically decrease the traffic in every Court throughout the State. To that end, since last Monday, all of the Districts throughout the State streamlined their operations into one Consolidated Courthouse in each County. This transformation has been nothing short of miraculous. As you know, in Nassau, our Consolidated Courthouse is located in the County Court building at 262 Old Country Road, Mineola, New York. There is a separate Courtroom for each Court and each day there is a different Judge assigned to each of the various Courts; i.e., Supreme Court, County Court, Family Court, District Court (including the City of Glen Cove and Long Beach), and Surrogate's Court. In Criminal matters, all appearances by incarcerated individuals are accomplished by Skype from the Police Department and from the Sheriff's Department. Guardianship matters are also conducted by SKYPE/phone conference. Matrimonial matters are accomplished by SKYPE/phone conference. The minimization of Courthouse traffic has been dramatic. As a result of the cooperation, flexibility and

professionalism of each of you, this incredible feat has been accomplished seamlessly and successfully.

The next phase of Chief Judge DiFiore's plan involves setting up a completely Virtual Courthouse. This laudable goal is to further keep the Judges, staff, and Court users safe during this crisis. The Courts in NYC are scheduled to commence their Virtual Courthouse by the beginning of next week, and the Courts outside of the City, including Nassau County, by the end of next week. Once the Virtual Courthouse is established, only a clerk will be present in each Court in the Consolidated Courthouse. The clerk will handle all of the paperwork and oversee the Virtual process as it is unfolding. Everyone else involved in each proceeding, including each Judge, will appear via Skype or can call in by phone conference. In order to test the effectiveness of the Skype system, over the next few days, we will be asking for the participation of the individual stakeholders to assist us with Skype testing to ensure that all of the members of the Nassau County legal community and the Court are collectively ready for this new phase. No further appearances at the Courthouse will be necessary after we are up and running. We are confident that this next phase will be as successful as the Consolidated Courthouse. You will be contacted shortly by the individual Courts to participate in this next phase.

Thank you in advance for your participation and assistance. Most of all, please stay Safe and Healthy. We will keep all that are ill in our thoughts and prayers.