

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

STANDING ORDER No. 7 CONCERNING COVID-19 PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, the Superior Court entered a Standing Order Concerning COVID-19 Precautionary Measures (“Standing Order No. 1”) in the interest of protecting jurors, parties, witnesses, lawyers, judges and court staff;

WHEREAS, the Delaware Supreme Court entered an Order Declaring a Judicial Emergency, effective 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 16, 2020 (the “Judicial Emergency Order”), which provides the trial courts with the discretion to continue criminal and civil trials for a period of 30 days, and to utilize audiovisual devices to conduct proceedings, in order to limit the number of people gathering in public court buildings;

WHEREAS, the Delaware Supreme Court, on March 22, 2020, issued Administrative Order No. 3, closing all public courthouses in the State until April 15, 2020 and implementing certain other measures in response to the public health threat posed by COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Delaware Supreme Court, on April 14, 2020, issued Administrative Order No. 4, extending the judicial emergency for another 30 days through May 14, 2020, closing all public courthouses in the State, implementing certain other measures in response to the public health threat posed by COVID-19, and extending certain provisions of Administrative Order No.3;

WHEREAS, the Delaware Supreme Court, on April 30, 2020, issued Administrative Order No. 5, requiring the wearing of a mask or face covering by court staff, lawyers, litigants, jurors, contractors, vendors and visitors to any court facility when in the common or public areas of the court facilities if they cannot maintain a 6-foot separation for other individuals;

WHEREAS, the Delaware Supreme Court, on May 14, 2020, issued Administrative Order No. 6, extending the judicial emergency for another 30 days through June 13, 2020, closing all public courthouses in the State, implementing certain other measures in response to the public health threat posed by COVID-19, and extending certain provisions of Administrative Orders Nos. 3 and 5;

WHEREAS, the Superior Court has reviewed its practices and procedures in accord with the Supreme Court's Administrative Order No. 3, and has issued Standing Orders Nos. 2, 3, 4 (amended), 5 and 6 advising the members of the Delaware Bar, litigants and the public who have matters before the Superior Court in the coming months of updated operational protocols to handle essential matters;

WHEREAS, the federal government and the Governor of the State of Delaware have issued mandates to limit the amount of person-to-person contact and guidance as to social distancing in order to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus;

NOW, THEREFORE, in order to further public health and safety, comply with the states of emergency, and provide additional guidance to counsel and litigants, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Standing Order No. 7 is issued to modify Standing Orders Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 (as amended), 5 and 6 to extend any expiration dates, set forth therein, to June 13, 2020, and all other terms of these Standing Orders remain in effect, subject to further review.

President Judge Jan R. Jurden