

New Jersey State Court Procedures (Updated):

- **This update supplements the COVID-19 Rules by Court Summary of court procedures and postponements previously posted on our site on April 3, 2020. Below is a brief overview of the current directives, which can change daily, and differ by County or Judge. Please consult with your attorneys regarding any specific case and/or questions you may have regarding these policies.**
- **On April 24, 2020, New Jersey issued a Second Omnibus Order that in part supersedes and in part continues the directives of the prior March 27, 2020 Omnibus Order by resuming the handling of certain Court matters by video/telephone, ending tolling for certain deadlines and time periods and continuing suspension of trials and grand juries.**
- **Overview of directives affecting NJ courts state-wide:**
 - No in-person appearances, except for emergency situations, and, to the extent practicable, all court matters including hearings, conferences, and arguments will be conducted by video or phone.
 - E-filing and paper filing remain available, with certain limitations on hard copy drop offs.
 - In computation of time periods under Rules of Court or Statutes of Limitation, such periods for purposes of filing deadlines are tolled such that the time from March 16, 2020 through May 10, 2020 are deemed legal holidays.
 - New civil and grand jury trials postponed until May 31, 2020.
 - Rules requiring original signatures are relaxed to allow for temporary electronic signatures.
 - Extensions of Discovery End Date periods, and other court adjournment requests or extensions, can be done by letter in lieu of a motion.
- **Overview of discovery updates:**
 - Relaxation of rules pertaining to the time for responding to discovery, including interrogatories and requests for admissions, concluded as of May 10, 2020. Regular court and time period deadlines have resumed.
 - To the extent practicable, through May 31, 2020, depositions should be conducted remotely and court reporters can administer oaths remotely.
 - Depositions of any healthcare professional currently involved in providing COVID-19 care are suspended through May 31, 2020.
 - The time periods for dismissal of civil cases for lack of prosecution will be tolled through May 31, 2020.
 - The timeframe for service of valid and timely Notices of Tort Claim will be tolled through May 31, 2020.
 - Court Civil Arbitration sessions resumed on April 27, 2020 with hearings conducted by video or telephone.
 - In recognition of hardships caused by COVID-19, the courts may, in any individual matter, suspend, extend or otherwise accommodate the legitimate needs of parties, attorneys and others “in the interests of justice.”