

Stotler Hayes Group, LLC National Survey of State Courts - COVID 19 Impact

State	As of Date	State Court Status	Court Link
US Federal Courts	3/17/20	Supreme Court Building is closed until further notice. Oral arguments scheduled for March 2020 are postponed. The Building will continue to be open for official business, and filing deadlines are not extended under Rule 30.1. Court District and Appellate Courts are each making individual decisions.	US Supreme Court Webpage
Alabama	3/17/20	The Supreme Court of Alabama has issued an order suspending all in-person proceedings in all state and local courts in Alabama, including, but not limited to, proceedings in the circuit court, district court (including cases on the small claims docket), juvenile court, municipal court, probate court, and appellate courts until Apr. 16, 2020, with limitations and exceptions	Alabama Bar Update
Arizona	3/17/20	Supreme Court of Arizona issued Order granting presiding judges authority to adjourn, waive, or alter local rules and requirements as needed.	Supreme Court Update
Arkansas	3/17/20	Telephones and video hearings implemented/available. Some county courts closed.	Supreme Court Update
California	3/17/20	The State Bar Court has issued a notice allowing participants in certain State Bar Court proceedings to request court approval to appear by telephone. Parties must continue to appear in person for trial, but may be able to request a continuance subject to certain criteria.	State Bar Page
Colorado	3/17/20	Largely operating as Usual, but each jurisdiction is posting updated important information for jurors, litigants, and probationers about protocols for appearing in court in light of COVID-19. Out of concern for the health and protection of court users and court staff, the supreme court will now accept case filings of pro se parties by fax and by email until further notice.	State Court COVID page
Connecticut	3/17/20	Monday, March 16, 2020, and continuing through March 27, 2020, the courts will schedule and hear only those matters identified as "Priority 1 Business Functions." With the exception of jury trials already in progress and criminal jury trials necessitated by the filing and granting of a speedy trial motion, all jury trials, civil and criminal, are suspended for the next 30 days	Connecticut State Court Page
Delaware	3/17/20	All jury trials will be rescheduled; On a case-by-case basis, the Court may order certain non-jury matters to proceed as scheduled. Civil Proceedings. There will be limited civil matters scheduled, which shall be conducted via telephone or video conferencing where practicable.	Delaware Courts Response Page
Florida	3/17/20	Operating as Usual; State Courts System emergency management group continues to monitor the situation closely.	FL Courts COVID-19 Page
Georgia	3/17/20	Georgia's chief justice has declared a statewide judicial emergency, ordering courts and clerk's offices to "suspend all but essential court functions" for 30 days. issues like domestic abuse restraining orders; juvenile detention hearings; mental health commitment hearings; and bond reviews should be prioritized. "To the extent court proceedings are held, they should be done in a manner to limit the risk of exposure, where possible, such as videoconferencing," the order said.	Not available online

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Illinois	3/17/20	Varies for each Circuit; some are operating with precautions, others are urging people to use remote access, some are postponing matters.	Illinois Courts COVID 19 Page
Indiana	3/17/20	Individual courts are authorized to restrict, postpone, or telephonically hold hearings.	Indiana Judiciary COVID19 page
Iowa	3/17/20	Courts are open with accomdations for certain matters to be held telephonically.	Iowa Courts COVID19 page
Kansas	3/17/20	Court visitation is limited to personnel and those that cannot conduct business online. Additional restrictions allowed by local courts.	Kansas Courts News Room Annoucement
Kentucky	3/17/20	The Supreme Court of Kentucky has issued an order placing restrictions on dockets, jury trials and jury service from March 16-April 10, largely postponing matters (except emergencies), and encouraging e-filing.	KY Courts COVID19 Page
Maine	3/17/20	As of Monday, March 16, 2020, all courthouses remain open to the public although, many proceedings have been postponed or canceled. The Maine Supreme Judicial Court issues an order to postpone all in-person court events for family, civil, and criminal dockets, with exceptions. No jury trials will be held. All boards and committees established by the SJC are authorized to conduct conferences by electronic means. Maine Superior Court and District Court issue an order broadening any statutory definition (for purposes of Titles 18-C, 19-A, 22, or similar statute) of face-to-face or in person contact or interviews with children and families to include video and telephone contact. The Cumberland County Probate Court in Maine closing the Court to the public until 4/16/2020	Maine Courts COVID page
Maryland	3/17/20	Order issued closing state courts to public. Emergency/Priority matters may proceed per Order. Orders not involving testimony or resolvable without argument may proceed. All hearings scheduled March 16 - April 2 are postponed.	Maryland State Bar COVID-19 Page
Massachutts	3/17/20	Most courts have adopted Orders restricting or closing access except exigent circumstances, and whenever practical and possible, encouraging Courts to conduct hearings by telephone or videoconference rather than having people appear in person or rescheduling event dates.	MA Courts COVID Page
Michigan	3/17/20	All courts are still handling emergencies, but many have adopted Orders to restrict or ban other business. Check their page for specifics.	Michigan Courts COVID19 Page
Minnesota	3/17/20	Executive Order issued. Most courts remain open with precautionary measures in place. Priority cases are being heard, Medium and lower priority matters are postponed.	MN Courts Emergency Page
Mississippi	3/17/20	Emergency Order issued banning hearings of more than 50 people and authorizing individual courts to postpone matters and restrict individuals traveling to court from impacted area.	Courts Main Page (Annoucement at Bottom)

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Missouri	3/17/20	All in person proceedings are suspended through April 3. Individual courts have also issued specific Orders.	Missouri COVID19 page
Montana	3/17/20	Order issued wherein Courts are encouraged to use video-conferencing and telephonic conferencing as much as possible. Jury trials may be continued.	Not available online
New Hampshire	3/17/20	Effective COB 3/16/20 through 4/6/10 all in-person proceedings in the Circuit, Superior, and Supreme Courts are suspended. Exceptions can be found in the link.	NH Courts COVID-19 Page
New Jersey	3/17/20	All in-person Superior Court and Tax Court prior to 3/18/20 are postponed, with exceptions; Other proceedings in Supreme Court and Appellate proceed as normal; Motions hearings in Civil and Family will be by phone or video; No new jury trials	NJ Courts Webpage
New Mexico	3/17/20	Suspending civil jury trials at the supreme court. In District court, the decision to hold hearings and trials will be at the discretion of each presiding Judicial Officer. If there are changes or cancellations, the affected parties will be notified.	NM Courts Main News Page
New York	3/17/20	Effective 5:00 on 3/16/20 all non-essential functions of the courts are postponed until further notice and all essential functions continue.	NY Courts COVID19 Page
North Carolina	3/17/20	Most court cases and other hearings in district and superior court will be continued for at least 30 days.	NC Courts COVID19 Page
Ohio	3/17/20	Per Cuyahoga County: Effective immediately, all scheduled hearings at the Probate Court are canceled. Access to the Probate Court is limited to essential staff only. The Court remains open for Civil Commitments and Emergency Guardianships on a limited basis. For questions regarding Civil Commitments, please call 216-443-8123. For questions involving Emergency Guardianships, please call 216-443-8995.	Ohio Supreme Court Resources

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Oklahoma	3/17/20	<p>All district courts in Oklahoma shall immediately cancel all jury terms for the next 30 days and release jurors from service. No additional jurors shall be summoned without approval of the Chief Justice. All civil, criminal and juvenile jury trials shall be continued to the next available jury dockets.</p> <p>Subject only to constitutional limitations, all deadlines and procedures whether prescribed by statute, rule or order in any civil, juvenile or criminal case, shall be suspended for 30 days from the date of this order. This suspension also applies to appellate rules and procedures for the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, and the Court of Civil Appeals.</p> <p>In any civil case, the statute of limitations shall be extended for 30 days from the date of this order.</p> <p>Subject only to constitutional limitations, assigned judges should reschedule all non-jury trial settings, hearings, and pretrial settings. Emergency matters, arraignments, bond hearings, and required proceedings of any kind shall be handled on a case by case basis by the assigned judge. Judges shall use remote participation to the extent possible by use of telephone conferencing, video conferencing pursuant to Rule 34 of the Rules for District Courts, or other means. The use of email, fax and drop boxes for acceptance of written materials is encouraged, except that the use of email may not be used for appellate filings at this time. If any party or counsel objects to a continuance of any matter, assigned judges are encouraged to hold hearings in the same manner as emergency matters.</p>	<p>Oklahoma State Courts Update</p>

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Pennsylvania	3/17/20	<p>Amid COVID-19 mitigation efforts, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court today declared a statewide judicial emergency effective until April 14, 2020.</p> <p>With the emergency declaration in place, county president judges are authorized to declare individual county judicial emergencies through April 14, 2020, should they deem it appropriate to protect the health and safety of staff, court users and the community.</p> <p>Specifically, counties operating under local judicial emergencies shall have the authority to:</p> <p>Suspend time calculations for the purposes of time computation relevant to court cases or other judicial business, as well as time deadlines, subject to constitutional restrictions;</p> <p>Authorize additional uses of advanced communications technology to conduct court proceedings, subject to constitutional restrictions; and</p> <p>Take any action permitted pursuant to Rule of Judicial Administration 1952(B)(2), including restrictions or temporary closures of court facilities.</p> <p>The emergency declaration specifically authorizes president judges to suspend the operation of Rule of Criminal Procedure 600 within a judicial district, for the length of the judicial emergency. The Supreme Court Order, however, does not affect a criminal defendant's right to a speedy trial under the United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions.</p> <p>Judicial Districts operating under the emergency declaration will arrange for the provision of essential judicial services, including arraignments and bail establishment hearings and protection from abuse act proceedings.</p>	Judicial System of Pennsylvania Update
Rhode Island	3/17/20	<p>Beginning Monday, March 16, Rhode Island state courts will remain open week during the COVID-19 public health emergency, but all court calendars will be canceled for one week. There will be no jury trials next week. The courts will be able to handle any and all emergency matters including but not limited to domestic violence petitions, temporary restraining orders, bail, and arraignments for charges of serious crimes.</p>	Rhode Island Judiciary Update
South Carolina	3/17/20	<p>All jury trials are postponed. Non-jury trials and other hearings may continue to be held, but only attorneys, their clients, and necessary witnesses will be allowed to appear. All roll calls and any other large gatherings such as traffic court are cancelled until further notice.</p>	South Carolina Judicial Branch Update
Tennessee	3/17/20	<p>All- in person court proceedings have been suspended in all TN state/local courts 3/13/20 through 3/31/20; however, courts remain open.</p>	Tennessee Court Update
Texas	3/17/20	<p>Majority of Courts are closed - webpage identifies same.</p>	Texas Judicial Branch Update

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Utah	3/17/20	<p>Utah Supreme Court Chief Justice Matthew Durrant has issued a general order all non-essential hearings are postponed. Courthouses will remain open to accept filings, however, individuals who show symptoms or who have been exposed to someone with symptoms of COVID-19 may not enter courthouses. Courts can be contacted by phone and email.</p> <p>Regarding Utah Court of Appeals and Utah Supreme Court, all oral arguments will be suspended with the exception of the following: child custody, juvenile detention/child welfare/child safety, in-custody defendants, election matters.</p>	Utah Court Update
Vermont	3/17/20	<p>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.</p>	Vermont Judiciary Update
Virginia	3/17/20	<p>Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 ALL Virginia Courts have been ordered closed through Friday 4/3/20.</p>	Virginia State Bar Update
Washington	3/17/20	<p>A number of emergency modifications were issued statewide. Court modifications and local court orders that are filed are listed by jurisdiction online.</p>	Washington Court Emergency Page
West Virginia	3/17/20	<p>The protocol encourages judicial officers to postpone proceedings that are not time-sensitive, use available technology such as conference calls and video conferencing to minimize person-to-person contact, and schedule dockets to limit the number of people gathering in large numbers, according to a press release from the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.</p> <p>The Court is also sending notices to give directions to parties, attorneys, witnesses, jurors and the public. For judicial employees, special sick leave will be provided under certain qualifying conditions, and out-of-state travel will be temporarily canceled except in special approved circumstances.</p>	West Virginia Judiciary Update
Wyoming	3/17/20	<p>Adopted a Pandemic Plan, will be activated if needed.</p>	Wyoming Supreme Court Update

