

Press Release

May 2, 2020

JUDICIAL BRANCH MAINTAINS ITS CURRENT OPERATIONS

More services provided remotely through videoconferencing system

The Administrative Director of the Courts, Hon. Sigfrido Steidel Figueroa, announced today that the Judicial Branch will not increase on-site operation at the judicial centers, but will extend the use of the videoconferencing system to various matters.

As Steidel Figueroa explained, beginning Monday, May 4, 2020, the Centers for Conflict Mediation were added to the services available remotely. Individuals may request consultations, receive orientation, file new cases, reschedule appointments, and check the status of pending mediation proceedings. A person must send an email to mediacion@ramajudicial.pr to access this new service. The message must include the person's name, telephone number and municipality where the person resides, and a brief description of the conflict to be resolved or the information of case the person wishes to verify. Staff at the Conflict Mediation Centers will contact the person to offer services through videoconference from Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Steidel Figueroa also informed that more civil and family cases under the jurisdiction of the superior court will be heard. Therefore, he urged attorneys whose circumstances allow and who have these technological tools available to them, to further those pending proceedings which may be addressed in this manner. Attorneys may file restraining orders and involuntary admission orders in mental health cases by sending the appropriate form to presentaciones@ramajudicial.pr. All hearings and matters scheduled before the courts between Tuesday, March 31, 2020 and May 25, 2020 remain suspended.

The Office of Notarial Inspection (ODIN) will continue to receive applications and communications remotely. Beginning May 5, 2020, a special deposit box will be placed in the municipal part of the Court of First Instance of San Juan to receive applications and notices directed to the ODIN. For further details, please access the memorandum issued by the ODIN, available on our website at www.ramajudicial.pr.

The Administrative Director of the Courts clarified that urgent matters under the jurisdiction of the municipal courts in the thirteen judicial regions will continue to be heard from Monday through Friday between 12 o'clock noon and 4:00 p.m. On weekends and holidays, the municipal courts of San Juan, Bayamón, Ponce, and Mayagüez will be open during these hours. Should any situation occur outside these hours of operation, the public may go to any police station, where the judge on call will be contacted to decide the matter.

In other news, the Supreme Court issued a Resolution extending through June 8, 2020 all terms in judicial proceedings expiring between March 16 and June 7, 2020.