

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PUERTO RICO

In re: Measures Taken by the Court
in light of the Covid-19 Health Emergency

EM-2020-05

Extension of Time

RESOLUTION

San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 26, 2020

On March 12, 2020, the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Wanda Vázquez Garced, declared a state of emergency as a result of the threat posed by the pandemic spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. As an additional measure, on March 15, 2020, the Governor of Puerto Rico issued an Executive Order declaring the close of operations and curfew applicable to public and private entities, with certain exceptions. The Executive Order is effective from March 16 through March 30, 2020.

Likewise, on March 15, 2020 the Judicial Branch announced a close of operations and suspended all hearings and scheduled matters at the courts of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico through March 30, 2020. It was decreed that during this period only urgent matters will be entertained, such as hearings to determine probable cause for arrest (Criminal Procedure Rule 6), restraining orders, requests to relocate minors outside of the jurisdiction, other urgent matters regarding family and minors' affairs, and involuntary admission orders under the Mental Health Code of Puerto Rico, to name a few. On March 16, 2020, we decided to extend until April 15, 2020 “[a]ny term that runs out between March 16 and April 14, 2020.” In re: Measures Taken by the Court in light of the Covid-19 Health Emergency, EM-2020-03.

Today, the Governor of Puerto Rico declared an extension to the close of operations and curfew put into effect on March 15, 2020, until April 12, 2020.

Pursuant to our power to regulate judicial proceedings by computing the terms provided in the various laws, rules, and regulations applicable to court proceedings, any term that runs out between March 16, 2020 and April 26, 2020 is hereby extended through April 27, 2020. This determination shall apply to any term established through court order that would expire between these dates.

The immediate dissemination of this Resolution is hereby ordered.

To be published.

It was so agreed by the Court and certified by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.

Associate Justice Martínez Torres agrees with this decision and reiterates his expressions issued on the resolution of March 16 of the current year.

(Sgd.) José Ignacio Campos Pérez
Clerk of the Supreme Court