

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PUERTO RICO

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

EM-2020-07

Extension of Time

RESOLUTION

San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 13, 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 COVID-19 coronavirus. On March 15, 2020, the Governor issued an Executive Order to decree a total lockdown and a curfew applicable to both public and private entities—with certain exceptions related to essential services—from March 16 through March 30, 2020. These measures were twice extended, and currently apply through Sunday, May 3, 2020.

On March 15, 2020, the Judicial Branch announced a partial 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 provided that during that period only urgent matters would 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 extended 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. On March 26, we further decreed to extend the terms of judicial proceedings through April 27, 2020 to continue with the safety measures adopted. In re: Measures Taken by the Court in light of the Covid-19 Health Emergency, EM-2020-05.

Considering the extension of the partial close of operations announced by the Judicial Branch through May 3, 2020, and pursuant to our inherent power to regulate judicial proceedings by computing the terms provided in the various laws, rules, and regulations related to court proceedings, it is hereby decreed that any term that expires between March 16 and May 17, 2020 shall be extended through Monday, May 18, 2020. This decision shall apply to any term provided by 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.

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

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