



PRESS RELEASE

Hon. Kathie E. Davidson
Administrative Judge
Ninth Judicial District

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Date: April 2, 2020

Virtual Court Operations to Commence in the Ninth Judicial District *Courts Remain Open for Essential Proceedings*

NEW YORK—In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hon. Kathie E. Davidson, Ninth Judicial District Administrative Judge, announced that effective Monday, April 6, 2020, virtual court operations will commence via Skype for Business video conferencing for all courts within Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties for essential proceedings. Under the guidance of Chief Judge DiFiore, we have "taken steps to reduce traffic in our courts for the protection of both court personnel and the public while at the same time providing the essential services needed in our community," said Judge Davidson. "We are now providing the ability for all court users to appear remotely, thereby reducing the risk of spreading the Coronavirus".

On March 16, 2020, Judge Davidson announced that all non-essential functions of the courts were postponed until further notice and that each county's court operations were consolidated into one building. In a further step to address the

Coronavirus, in an Administrative Order dated April 1, 2020, Judge Davidson is now allowing judges, defendants/litigants, attorneys and some court staff to appear by video conferencing. A minimal court staff will be at the courthouse (including security) to receive papers, answer the phones and conduct other essential court functions. The Virtual Courtroom Protocols that apply to all essential court matters have been distributed to all stakeholders. Judge Davidson added, "These are challenging times for everyone, but the Courts will remain open and prepared to provide the essential services that the public deserves. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and adjust our procedures as appropriate."

Individuals with court-related questions are encouraged to call their designated courthouse. Contact information, as well as information related to postponements, is available online for all counties on the Ninth Judicial District website:

<http://ww2.nycourts.gov/courts/9jd/emergency.shtml>

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