



## **Virtual Court Operations to Commence in the Sixth Judicial District**

### **Courts Remain Open for Essential Proceedings**

March 31, 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hon. Eugene D. Faughnan, 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Administrative Judge, announced that effective Monday, April 6, 2020, virtual court operations will commence via video conferencing for all courts within Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Schuyler, Tioga, and Tompkins 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,” Judge Faughnan said. “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 Faughnan 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 6, 2020, Judge Faughnan 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 Faughnan 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 his/her designated courthouse. Contact information as well as information related to postponements is available online for all counties at the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District website at <http://ww2.nycourts.gov/courts/6jd/index.shtml>.