



PRESS RELEASE 2020-0006

MODIFIED OPERATIONS OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Administrator of Courts, Regina Petersen, advises the public that to enforce social distancing protocols, effective Friday, March 27, 2020, the Judicial Branch, has further curtailed operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2020-0004 issued by the Supreme Court which suspended non-essential services within the Judicial Branch, Presiding Judge Harold W.L. Willocks today entered an order implementing remote hearing protocols for all or most essential and emergency matters, including but not limited to Advice of Rights, emergency petitions for Abuse and Neglect, Domestic Violence and Stalking. Accordingly, public traffic to our courts shall be limited to these essential and emergency matters only.

In accordance with these orders, essential employees across the branch, where applicable, will work remotely, and report to court facilities only in accordance with established emergency schedules. Due to the expansion of our telework program and the implementation of the aforementioned protocols, telework and remote hearing protocols, we are further advising the public that the Raymond L Finch Supreme Court Building located at No. 18 Strand Street Frederiksted St. Croix will be closed for the duration of this pandemic. Until further notice, there will be no drop box at that location, and the public is advised to utilize the drop box at the R. H. Amphlett Leader Justice Center located at RR1 9000 Kingshill, St. Croix.

Territory-wide **ALL** non-essential judicial branch employees have been asked to shelter in place and have been placed on paid administrative leave. During this period of modified operations, Judicial officers and Court personnel remain available to conduct the business of the Court virtually and telephonically. For inquiries and/or assistance, please utilize the following numbers:

St. Croix District

Court Administration	(340) 713-6627
Office of the Clerk of Superior Court	(340) 713-6626
Probation and Pre-Trial Services	(340) 713-6642

St. Thomas/St. John District

Court Administration	(340) 693-4110
Office of the Clerk of Superior Court	(340) 693-6403
Probation and Pre-Trial Services	(340) 693-6429

Supreme Court

Office of the Clerk of Supreme Court	(340) 693-4100
Office of Bar Admissions	(340) 693-4120
Office of Disciplinary Counsel	(340) 693-4127

The public is further reminded of the following email addresses for the submission of filings to the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands:

Advice of Rights and Arraignments	remoteaorstx@vicourts.org remoteaorstt@vicourts.org
Complex Litigation Filings	CLDCourtesyCopy@vicourts.org
ALL Other Filings	superiorcourtefile@vicourts.org

Conventional filings continue to be accepted at All Superior Court locations and at the Supreme Court located in Crown Bay St. Thomas.

We remind our employees and the public to follow CDC guidelines in response to this pandemic and to remain vigilant in social distancing.

For more information, contact:

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