

COVID-19 NYS Court Procedures

If you have specific questions about your juror service, a case already in court, or you need to start a court case, call: The Coronavirus Telephone Hotline: 833-503-0447.

COVID Screening Protocol:

Effective July 6, all visitors to UCS courthouses and other facilities will be required to submit to temperature screening and questioning. This includes parties, attorneys, witnesses, spectators, law enforcement officers, prisoners, vendors, and all other non-court system personnel. Visitors with a temperature of 100.0° F. or higher will not be permitted to enter the courthouse. All court visitors are required to wear a mask.

PHASED EXPANSION OF IN-PERSON COURT OPERATIONS Consistent with Governor Cuomo's plan for a phased reopening of public and private business in New York State, the Unified Court System has expanded in-person operations around the State in phases.

Description of Phased Operations

PHASE ONE:

- Judges and their staffs will return to courthouses. and will conduct virtual proceedings from chambers.
- Additional, but not all, other court personnel will return to in-person service in the courthouses.
- in order to minimize foot traffic in the courts, for health and safety reasons, courts and parties continue to be encouraged to conduct proceedings virtually.

PHASE TWO:

- Essential family matters will be conducted in person and heard by the assigned judge
- Criminal, juvenile delinquency and mental hygiene law proceedings pertaining to a hospitalized adult will be held virtually and heard by the assigned judge
- Non-essential matters will continue to be held virtually and heard by the assigned judge
- Mediations and other forms of alternate dispute resolution will be conducted virtually

PHASE THREE:

In addition to Phase Two operations, Phase Three will expand in-person matters to include:

- child support proceedings
- arraignments of defendants who have been issued desk appearance tickets
- preliminary hearings in criminal cases for defendants being held in jail on felony complaints
- selected plea and sentencing proceedings for defendants at liberty

- a limited number of bench trials, in civil matters

In New York City only:

- in-court conferences of felony cases for defendants at liberty
- where an in-person proceeding involves an incarcerated individual, that individual will appear virtually, unless otherwise ordered by the assigned judge

PHASE FOUR:

In addition to Phase Three matters, Phase Four will expand in-person matters to include:

- child permanency hearings
- superior civil court appearances where at least one party is self-represented
- small claims matters filed prior to April 1, 2020
- Grand Jury proceedings will commence on July 13, 2020

Courts will also conduct virtual proceedings in the following matters:

- non-essential matters
- juvenile delinquency proceedings
- adoptions
- eviction matters in which all parties are represented by counsel
- Mental Hygiene Law proceedings pertaining to a hospitalized adult
- mediation and other types of alternative dispute resolution
- criminal matters, except as noted elsewhere on this page
- where an in-person proceeding involves an incarcerated individual, that individual will appear virtually, unless otherwise ordered by the assigned judge

COURTS IN PHASE FOUR

Effective July 10, 2020:

Tenth Judicial District (Nassau and Suffolk Counties)

Effective July 9, 2020:

Third Judicial District (Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster Counties)

Ninth Judicial District (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester Counties)

Effective July 6, 2020:

Fourth Judicial District (Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington Counties)

Eighth Judicial District (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming Counties)

Effective July 1, 2020:

Fifth Judicial District (Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego Counties)

Sixth Judicial District (Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Schuyler, Tioga and Tomkins Counties)

Seventh Judicial District (Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates Counties)

COURTS IN PHASE THREE

Effective July 8, 2020:

New York City (Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Richmond Counties)