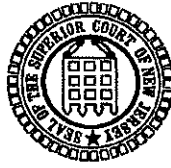


SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

CHAMBERS OF
Ana C. Viscomi
JUDGE



MIDDLESEX COUNTY COURT HOUSE
P.O. Box 964
NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY 08903-0964

March 13, 2020

To: All Asbestos Counsel

Dear Counsel,

Yesterday I wrote to you with regarding to how we are proceeding in consideration of the current Coronavirus concern. Today I need to update you with regard to my communication relating to trials and also address the issues of: depositions; and the request to e-file.

1. Trials: In furtherance of Chief Justice Rabner's directive of March 12, 2020, jury trials will be suspended until further notice. This directive does not affect the current ongoing trial before me. At the conclusion of this trial, I am available for bench trials assuming parties are amenable. We will be contacting counsel for the upcoming trial ready cases to offer this option.
2. Depositions: With regard to any depositions of plaintiffs, plaintiffs' counsel shall make appropriate arrangements for counsel to be able to appear telephonically or by some video-conferencing capability. Any expert, corporate representative or fact witness deposition that need to be completed should also have video or telephonic opportunity made available. Please first ascertain the necessity of completing these latter three types of depositions at this time. Consider the fact that jury trials are now suspended until further notice and the likelihood that a plaintiff and defendant would agree to a bench trial is slim to none. (No offense taken.) We will adjust case management orders accordingly after the Coronavirus concern has passed and the Chief Justice rescinds his directive.
3. E-File: As you are aware, we are not filing on e-courts because of "space" issues; the exhibit page length for many motions exceeds space capacity. Many of you have contacted us requesting to be able to e-file in consideration of the Coronavirus concerns. I hope to be able to respond to you shortly. Please continue present filing procedures of hard copies until further notice.

Very truly yours,

ANA C. VISCOMI, J.S.C

ACV:ss