

Connecticut Judicial Branch Initiates Plan to Resolve More Cases

Statement from Chief Court Administrator Patrick L. Carroll III

As I have stressed since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the CT Judicial Branch has concentrated its efforts on mitigating the spread of the virus, keeping our workforce, Judges and the public, safe and healthy and focusing our work on handling only those Priority 1 matters that must be addressed. With the input of our Chief Administrative Judges and under the leadership of Deputy Chief Court Administrator Elizabeth A. Bozzuto, we are now able to expand the scope of our work to include certain matters other than “Priority 1” matters. Our goal is to incrementally increase the volume of court work that can be handled by Judges and court staff.

Key to this initiative is the ability to process, review and/or resolve matters remotely. We will concentrate initially on civil and family cases. With civil matters, almost all documents are e-filed, making it much simpler for a clerk or judge to take action. We anticipate that our judges and clerks will have the ability to act on various matters, including, but not limited to: completing and issuing decisions in cases that were previously argued or submitted and processing other matters on the papers filed rather than requiring parties to appear in court.

Regarding family matters, we have identified two areas that may be addressed remotely: 1) Approval of joint petitions for non-adversarial divorce; and 2) entering court orders regarding requests for approval of temporary agreements, without a court appearance.

Our judges and staff will start addressing these civil and family matters within days. I appreciate the invaluable input from our judges and court clerks on this initiative, and I am very grateful for the patience of the bar and public as we work our way through this unprecedented situation.

We plan to continue to add to the list of matters that we will process. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the [Judicial Branch’s website](#).