

Judges and Judicial Branch Employees:

As you are well aware, COVID-19 continues to challenge the operations of the Connecticut Judicial Branch as we seek to protect the safety and health of you and the public. To achieve this goal, we have undertaken several steps to, until further notice, prioritize the cases to be handled and to limit the handling of these cases to only one courthouse in each Judicial District.

Yet more stringent steps are necessary as this virus continues to spread. As such, I am ordering the following:

- Three courthouses – the Litchfield Judicial District courthouse located at 50 Field St. Torrington; Geographical Area (GA) #19 courthouse located at 20 Park St. in Rockville; and the GA #11 courthouse located at 120 School St. in Danielson – will be temporarily closed until further notice, effective at the close of business on Friday, March 27, 2020. Effective, Monday, March 30, 2020, matters from Litchfield will transfer to the Waterbury GA #4 courthouse; matters from Rockville will transfer to the Hartford GA #14 courthouse; and matters from Danielson will transfer to the New London Judicial District courthouse.

We chose these three courthouses based on caseload data that we have collected since ordering this month that only [“Priority 1 Business Functions”](#) be handled in state courts. All three locations show lower numbers of public traffic than busier court locations, and the larger locations have the ability to absorb the additional caseload.

In addition, we closed the Danbury Judicial District courthouse effective at the end of business on Wednesday, March 25, 2020. The Danbury cases have been transferred to Waterbury GA #4.

- Effective immediately and until further notice, entrance to courthouses that remain open is being limited to those individuals who are:
  - Filing or have a hearing for a Temporary Restraining Order
  - Filing or have a hearing for a Civil Protection Order
  - Filing or have a hearing on an emergency ex parte motion for custody
  - Involved in a criminal arraignment or other criminal proceeding.

A [notice](#) to this effect has already been posted on the Judicial Branch website.

- Effective Tuesday, March 31, 2020, and continuing each week Tuesday through Friday until further notice, the remaining open courthouses and two juvenile courthouses in Hartford and Bridgeport will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with staff leaving for the day at 2 p.m. Hours on Mondays will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Between now and March 31, these courts will be open during their regular hours of 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson and I fully recognize the disruption that these further steps will create for you. However, the COVID-19 crisis is unlike any other crisis the Branch has weathered in my 24 years as a judge. Drastic steps must be taken to prevent drastic consequences, and we believe that such actions will help mitigate, rather than accelerate, this pandemic, and protect you and your families. Again, thank you for all that you do amid such trying times, and we will continue to keep you posted regarding further developments.

Judge Patrick L. Carroll III