SUPREME COURT
No. 2020-06

EXECUTIVE ORDER

COVID-19 Pandemic Response – Limitations on Personnel

In light of the ongoing public health crisis arising from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic occurring across the world, the March 28, 2020 Executive Order (20-14) issued by the Governor prohibiting gatherings of five (5) or more people, and pursuant to the authority invested in me by § 8-15-2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, the following order is hereby issued.

Limitations on Personnel – Each court within the unified judicial system shall adhere to the Governor's directive of prohibiting on-site staff and other essential personnel from congregating in groups of more than five (5) people. Office areas may include more than five (5) essential staff on-site as long as proper social distancing practices are employed.

Emergency/Essential Matters – Every effort shall be made to limit in-person appearances, even with respect to the emergency/essential matters listed in Executive Order No. 2020-04, and any additional matters, as approved by the Presiding Justice of the Superior Court, the Chief Judge of the Family Court, the Chief Judge of the District Court, the Chief Judge of the Workers' Compensation Court, and Chief Magistrate of the Traffic Tribunal. To the extent that more than five (5) individuals are required to be present in a courtroom for the adjudication of emergency/essential matters, such hearings shall be conducted in a manner so as to ensure that appropriate distancing can be implemented among all essential participants.

Duration - The foregoing measures shall remain in place through April 17, 2020, or until such time that a new Executive Order is issued revoking or amending this Order.

Entered as an Executive Order this 31st day of March, 2020.

BY ORDER:

/s/
Paul A. Suttell
Chief Justice