NOTICE TO THE BAR

COVID-19 – HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED IN PANDEMIC RESPONSE NOT REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO DEPOSITIONS OR APPEAR FOR COURT EVENTS

Nurses, doctors, and other healthcare workers are providing critical frontline care as New Jersey battles a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, the Supreme Court has reinstated the suspension of requirements for healthcare professionals involved in responding to COVID-19 to appear for depositions or court proceedings, except for appearances and depositions (i) that are requested by the doctor, nurse, or healthcare professional; or (ii) that are for matters related to COVID-19. The Court's December 8, 2020 Order is attached.

Questions may be directed to the Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts at (609) 376-3000.

Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: December 8, 2020

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

In a March 24, 2020 Order issued shortly after the outset of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Supreme Court directed that, subject to specific exceptions, all depositions of and all required appearances for any doctors, nurses, or other healthcare professionals who were involved in responding to COVID-19 were suspended. Later Omnibus Orders continued the suspensions.

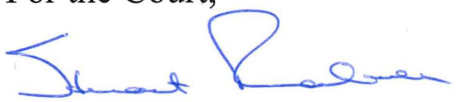
In a July 24, 2020 Order, at a time when new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations were under better control in New Jersey, the Court ended the general suspensions of depositions and appearances for healthcare providers but provided that further suspensions and extensions could be requested in individual cases based upon informal (letter) applications to be liberally granted.

In light of the grim reality presented by the second wave of the COVID-19 virus, and the resulting strain on healthcare professionals at this time, the Court is reinstating the general suspension of requirements for healthcare providers to submit to depositions or appear for court events.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that, effective immediately and until further order, all depositions of and all required appearances for any doctors, nurses, or other healthcare professionals who are involved in responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency are suspended, except for appearances and depositions

(i) that are requested by the doctor, nurse, or healthcare professional; or (ii) that are for matters related to COVID-19.

For the Court,



Chief Justice

Dated: December 8, 2020