SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

In response to the growing public health crisis worldwide and in this state involving the COVID-19 coronavirus, the New Jersey Judiciary is implementing all possible measures to apply social distancing in current court operations consistent with the recommendations of the New Jersey Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED, pursuant to N.J. Const., Art. VI, sec. 2, par. 3, that effective immediately and until further order, the provisions of Rule 7:6-3 and Rule 7:12-3 of the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey are supplemented and relaxed so as to remove the "undue hardship" requirement for allowing pleas by mail in the municipal courts.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that defendants completing plea by mail forms currently in use by municipal courts need not complete the sections pertaining to undue hardship and judges should disregard these sections of the forms.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that all other provisions of Rule 7:6-3 and Rule 7:12-3 regarding pleas by mail in the municipal courts shall remain in effect, including as to the types of cases permitted.

For the Court,

Chief Justice

Dated: March 16, 2020