STATE OF VERMONT
SUPREME COURT
MARCH TERM, 2020

Order Promulgating Amendments to Administrative Order No. 49

Pursuant to the Vermont Constitution, Chapter II, § 30 and Administrative Order No. 48, it is hereby ordered:

1. That ¶ 6(b) of Administrative Order No. 49 be amended as follows (new matter underlined):

6. **Email filings**:

b. In Superior Court divisions and units where there is no electronic filing or for litigants that are not required to electronically file, notwithstanding the provisions of V.R.C.P. 5 (incorporated by reference in V.R.Cr.P. 49, V.R.F.P. 4.0(a)(2)(A), V.R.E.C.P. 3, 4(a), 5(a)(2)) and V.R.P.P. 5, or any other rule, parties may file documents with the court using email, subject to the following requirements.

i. Filings must be sent as an attachment to the email account for the unit where the filing will be made. The subject line must indicate the division where it is being filed and the case docket number.

ii. Further details concerning the method of filing by email will be posted on the vermontjudiciary.org website, and may change from time to time. Parties and lawyers should check the guidance on the website before filing by email.

iii. A signature block containing the filer's typed-in name preceded by "/s/," or an electronic facsimile of the filer's signature, a scanned copy of it, or another form of electronic signature as defined in 9 V.S.A. § 271(9), will serve as a party's signature on pleadings, motions, and other documents that must be filed with a signature. This exception does not apply to affidavits, verified pleadings, or other signatures that must be notarized by statute.

2. That ¶¶ 13 and 14 of Administrative Order No. 49 be added to read as follows:

13. **Participation in Court-Ordered Mediation**: Pursuant to V.R.C.P. 16.3(b)(3), for as long as the judicial emergency exists under this order, the judicial emergency constitutes "good cause" authorizing remote participation in mediation, by video or telephone, without a stipulation or further court order. Notwithstanding V.R.F.P. 18(d)(4) and V.R.P.P. 16.1(d)(4), parties to matters in the family and probate divisions may attend court-ordered mediation remotely, by video or telephone.

14. **Work Locations**: To protect the health and safety of Judiciary employees and users of judicial services, and to protect public health, safety, and welfare, Judiciary employees may conduct Judiciary work only (1) in their assigned courthouses or administrative offices during business hours (or after business hours for authorized supervisors); or (2) remotely consistent with Judiciary teleworking guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. That this order is effective immediately and extends until April 15, 2020, unless extended by order of this Court.

4. That the Chief Justice is authorized to report this order to the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of 12 V.S.A. §1, as amended.

Done in chambers at Montpelier, Vermont this 20th day of March 2020.

Paul L. Reiber, Chief Justice

Beth Robinson, Associate Justice

Harold E. Eaton, Jr., Associate Justice

Karen R. Carroll, Associate Justice

William D. Cohen, Associate Justice