ADDENDUM TO THE GENERAL ORDER CONCERNING CIVIL CASES
Issued March 30, 2020

The Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia issued on March 18 and amended on March 19, 2020 an order pursuant to his emergency authority concerning the current public health emergency ("March 19 Order"). With respect to deadlines, the March 19 Order provides that, unless otherwise ordered by the court, all deadlines and time limits in statutes, court rules, and standing and other orders issued by the court that would otherwise expire before May 15, 2020 are suspended, tolled, and extended during the period of the current emergency. The May 15 date may be extended depending on the circumstances.

The deadlines suspended, tolled, and extended under the March 19 Order include, but are not limited to, (1) statutes of limitations, (2) rule-based deadlines such as time limits for service of process, responding to discovery requests, and events leading to a pretrial conference, and (3) case-specific orders issued before March 18, 2020 such as scheduling orders and briefing orders.

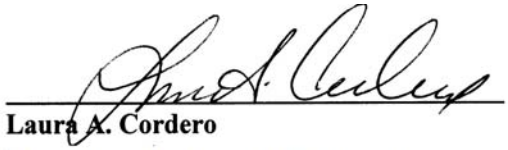
The new deadline will be determined by the date on which the period of tolling ends, which is May 15 under the March 19 Order. The new deadline depends in part on whether the event that triggers the deadline occurred before or after March 18, when the tolling period began. If an event before the start of the tolling period triggered a deadline that falls within the tolling period, the new deadline is extended by the length of the tolling period. For example, if the deadline for service of process, responding to a discovery request, or opposing a motion was one week after the tolling period began on March 18, the new deadline would be one week after the tolling period ends. If an event during the tolling period triggered a deadline, the clock would start running on the date the tolling period ends. For example, if a plaintiff filed a complaint between March 18 and May 15 and has 60 days to serve under Rule 4(m)(1)(A), the plaintiff would have 60 days after May 15 to serve the defendant, and the same principle applies if a party has 30 days under Rule 33(b)(2) to respond to interrogatories or 14 days under Rule 12-I(e) to respond to a motion.

If the extended deadline that would apply under the March 19 Order as a result of the tolling is appropriate in the circumstances of a particular case, a party should not file a motion concerning the deadline. If a party wants a deadline different from the deadline that would apply under the March 19 Order, the party must file a motion to shorten or extend this deadline.

The March 19 Order does not preclude a party from taking an action even though the deadline for the action is suspended, tolled, and extended because of the current emergency. During this period, judges in the Civil Division will continue to rule on consent motions and on contested motions that were ripe by March 17, 2020 or have been fully briefed after March 18, 2020.

This Addendum to the General Order shall remain in effect unless and until it is modified or rescinded as circumstances change.

Issued on March 30, 2020 by order of the Presiding Judge of the Civil Division.



Laura A. Cordero
Presiding Judge, Civil Division