



Courts Will Remain Open, but State Courts are Closed March 16 and 17, 2020

As the Commonwealth of Massachusetts implements measures to combat the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic, courts in the Commonwealth remain open at both the state and federal level, subject to limitations designed to mitigate the impact of the spreading virus. As of this writing, the following measures have been taken:

Massachusetts State Courts

- Trial courts closed March 16 and 17, 2020, to reopen March 18, 2020
- All jury trials where the jury has not already been empaneled are continued to a date no earlier than April 21, 2020
- No new grand juries shall be empaneled before April 21, 2020
- Anyone who is ill or has traveled to a hotspot country (China, Italy, South Korea, Japan or Iran) in the last 14 days is barred from courthouses in the Commonwealth
- Anyone with a hearing set before the court should telephone the clerk's office
- Appeals Court oral arguments are being held by telephone
- The Superior Court will be conducting hearings by telephone or video wherever possible and shall liberally grant requests for continuances
- Other state courts have issued separate orders along the same lines (Boston Municipal, state District, Land, Probate and Juvenile Courts)
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You can read the full text of the State Court orders here:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/court-system-response-to-covid-19>

Massachusetts Federal Courts: Massachusetts federal courts have also barred those who are ill, have traveled to a hotspot country or have been asked to self-quarantine. Anyone with a hearing scheduled before any federal court, trial or appellate, should call the clerk. You can read the full text of the federal orders here:

http://www.mab.uscourts.gov/pdffdocuments/031220_GeneralOrder20-1.pdf

The pandemic situation is fluid and we anticipate additional orders may be issued. OCM will keep you informed.

About OCM

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