



# PRESS RELEASE

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**New York State  
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Thomas A. Breslin  
Administrative Judge  
Third Judicial District**

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## **Virtual Court Operations to Commence in 3<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

### *Courts Remain Open for Essential Proceedings*

**NEW YORK**—In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hon. Thomas A. Breslin, Third Judicial District Administrative Judge, announced that, effective April 6, 2020, virtual court operations will commence via videoconferencing for all courts within Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster Counties for essential proceedings.

“Initially, to help reduce exposure to and the spread of COVID-19, we consolidated our court operations into one facility in each county in the Third Judicial District, assigning limited judicial and non-judicial staff to handle the essential proceedings,” Judge Breslin explained. Judge Breslin noted that “the Third Judicial District is further reducing traffic in our courthouses by now conducting such essential proceedings by video conferencing.” By doing this, Judge Breslin said, “Judges, court reporters, lawyers, litigants and other stakeholders will be able to participate in the proceeding without having to come into the courthouse.” He also noted that arrangements will be made for self-represented litigants who do not have the ability to appear virtually.

Today, Judge Breslin will be issuing an Administrative Order that sets forth the protocols for Virtual Courtrooms in the Third Judicial District and amends the District’s prior Administrative Order, issued on March 17, 2020, setting up consolidated courts in the

District for handling essential matters by allowing video participation. Under the protocols, a minimal core team of essential staff, including security, will remain at each courthouse to ensure the ability to intake papers, operate videoconferencing equipment, process orders, keep court records and conduct other essential court functions.

Individuals with court-related questions are encouraged to call their designated county courthouse. Contact information and other updated information is available online for all courthouses in the Third Judicial District at

<http://ww2.nycourts.gov/courts/3jd/index.shtml>.

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