



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

CHAMBERS OF
Michael A. Albis
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, FAMILY MATTERS

1 COURT STREET
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457

**STATEMENT FROM THE HON. MICHAEL A. ALBIS
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF FAMILY MATTERS
APRIL 3, 2020**

The Judicial Branch is implementing a new procedure for the remote filing of temporary restraining orders, with a twofold goal:

- To reduce the number of people coming into the courthouses, for which filing a temporary restraining order is one of the few remaining permitted purposes;
- To make it easier for victims of domestic violence to file, especially in this day of temporary courthouse closings and restricted mobility.

“We hope that this new procedure will be of great assistance to those victims of domestic violence who may be unable to leave their home at this time,” Judge Albis said. “Those who prefer to apply the old way by going to the courthouse will still be able to do so, but for the sake of everyone’s health we encourage applicants to file remotely if possible.”

Judge Albis thanked the Governor’s Office, which quickly issued an Executive Order on Thursday allowing the remote filing.

“Essentially, the executive order temporarily eliminates the requirement that applicants seeking a temporary restraining order must swear under oath that the statement is true,” Judge Albis said. “This is significant, as it eliminates the need for a notary public or other authority to take the applicant’s oath, while still legally obligating the applicant to make true statements.”

“As important,” he continued, “is a procedure issued by Chief Court Administrator Patrick L. Carroll III pursuant to the rules of the court. With the new procedure in place, temporary restraining orders may be filed via fax or email during courthouse hours, and applicants who file a digital application may sign it electronically by typing their name into the signature space. The procedure also authorizes applicants who are unable personally or electronically to sign the

application to ask a third person to electronically sign for them by typing the applicant's name into the signature space. This is especially crucial for those applicants who may have a disability, lack access to the Internet or who have limited language proficiency."

Forms and instructions for the new emergency procedures are being developed, and will be posted on the Judicial Branch [website](#) next week. An applicant using these forms will be able to complete and file an application by fax or email, all without the need for a notary public and without having to go to the court clerk's office.

The new process also applies in the same way to applications for civil orders of protection, which are similar to temporary restraining orders. Civil orders of protection, unlike family court temporary restraining orders, are available to persons who do not have any family, household, or dating relationship with the party from whom they seek protection.

"I'm particularly grateful to Judge Albis, our Legal Services Unit for expediting this new procedure, and our team of family court professionals within the Judicial Branch," Judge Carroll said. "Their creativity and initiative is exceeded only by their desire to assist victims of domestic violence in family court matters."