

**STATE OF MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH  
PANDEMIC MANAGEMENT ORDER**

Order Issued April 17, 2020

**Pandemic Management Order from the Maine Supreme Judicial  
Court Regarding Petitions Concerning Control of Notifiable  
Diseases and Conditions**

In light of public health concerns arising from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), **effective immediately**, and until further order of the Court, the District Court shall schedule and hear petitions concerning the control of notifiable diseases and conditions pursuant to Title 22, chapter 250. The following procedures shall apply to such petitions, effective immediately, and until further order of the Court:

1. All petitions shall be filed in compliance with the applicable requirements in Chapter 250 of Title 22. All pleadings and motions under that Chapter may be filed by email. Every pleading and motion filed by email is subject to the requirements of M.R. Civ. P. 11(a). In order to comply with M.R. Civ. P. 11(a), any pleading or motion sent to the court by email must include the following language: “I certify that there are good grounds to support this pleading, that it complies with PMO-SJC-3, and that it is not being filed to cause any delay.” This language must be followed by an “/s/” signature line containing the printed name of the filing party or attorney. If email filing is used, the filing party must also mail a paper copy to the court.
2. The procedures set forth in 22 M.R.S. § 811(6) shall apply to all hearings held under this chapter. The Court has promulgated forms for the Notice of Hearing and Order for hearings held pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 820. See CV-210 and CV-210 (Order).
3. If the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (“DHHS”) takes a person into custody and orders prescribed care without a court order under 22 M.R.S. § 820(1)(B)(1), then DHHS shall file a petition for judicial review as soon as reasonably possible, but not later than two hours after the person subject to prescribed care is taken into

custody. The petition shall be filed in the District Court for the district in which the subject of the petition is located.

4. Upon receipt of the petition, the court shall appoint counsel to represent the respondent and shall schedule a hearing. The court shall send the notice of hearing electronically to the petitioner and the petitioner shall cause the notice of hearing to be served upon the respondent within a reasonable time before the hearing. The court also shall send a copy of the notice of hearing electronically to counsel for the respondent.
5. Not later than 48 hours after the respondent is brought into custody, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays, and court holidays, the court shall hold a hearing to determine whether the person must remain subject to prescribed care pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 820(2). The court shall conduct the hearing by electronic means, unless otherwise ordered.

The court shall treat all documents filed pursuant to Title 22, chapter 250 as confidential.

Dated: April 17, 2020

For the Court:

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew M. Mead  
Acting Chief Justice