

Supreme Court  
of the  
Republic of Palau

P.O. Box 248  
Koror, Palau 96940  
Telephone:  
(680) 488-2182/4979/2607  
Fax:  
(680) 488-1597

**COVID-19 ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 20-03**

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS  
IN LIGHT OF COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC

On March 24, 2020, the Judiciary issued COVID-19 Administrative Directive No. 20-02, which curtailed court operations and limited access to court facilities to minimize the risk of spreading the virus. On March 30, 2020, the Ministry of Health reported a suspected case of COVID-19 in Palau. In light of this development, and consistent with recommendations from the World Health Organization, among other entities, for reducing the spread of COVID-19, I determine that it is in the best interests of the Court and the public to further curtail the Judiciary's operations for the next two weeks.

The Court complexes in Koror and Melekeok will be closed to the public beginning from today, April 2, 2020, at 12:00 pm PWT through April 17, 2020. Emergency and scheduled proceedings shall be held or continued as determined by the presiding Justice or Judge per Administrative Directive 20-02.

The Clerk's Office will be closed and all filing shall be done by electronic means pursuant to the Court's previously issued Standing Orders.

The law libraries at both court complexes will be closed. Any person desiring temporary access to Westlaw Online during the closure of the law libraries may send their email address to the Law Librarian at [hpaulus@palausupremecourt.net](mailto:hpaulus@palausupremecourt.net). The Law Librarian can also be reached via telephone at 775-4256 to request urgent access to the library in Koror.


Clients with the Probation Office shall maintain telephonic contact with the Office as normal.

During the term of this Directive, the court complexes will be deep-cleaned.

This Directive is made pursuant to my authority as the Acting Chief Justice and Administrative Head of the unified judicial system under Article X, Section 12 of the Palau Constitution. This Directive is in effect through April 17, 2020, but may be extended consistent with guidance from the Ministry of Health and the Office of the President. The prior COVID-19 Administrative Directives 20-01 and 20-02 remain in effect to the extent they are not incompatible with this Directive.

General questions about this Directive may be directed to the Clerk of Courts, Allison Sengebau, at 775-4914 or 488-2607. If for any reason Ms. Sengebau cannot be reached, you may contact Sherwin Yamanguchi at 779-2088.

Entered: April 2, 2020

  
John K. Rechucher  
Acting Chief Justice