STATEMENT TO THE JUDICIARY
AND THE DELAWARE BAR
SUPREME COURT OF DELAWARE
CHIEF JUSTICE COLLINS J. SEITZ, JR.

JUNE 12, 2020

Dear Members of the Judiciary and the Delaware Bar:

Since the March 13, 2020 Administrative Order declaring a judicial emergency, the court's facilities have been closed to the public, but we've continued the important and essential work of the judiciary. By adapting quickly through the use of video and audio technology, the courts have held many hearings and conferences. I'm proud of the extraordinary effort by judicial officers, employees, and our justice partners to keep the wheels of justice turning under difficult circumstances.

Under the June 5, 2020 Administrative Order No. 7 extending the judicial emergency, I accepted the recommendation of the Courts Reopening Committee to follow a phased approach to opening judicial facilities in Delaware. We started Phase 1 on June 8, 2020. In Phase 1, described as a "soft" reopening, the courts have set up screening at courthouse entrances and modified interior spaces as recommended by the Committee.

With health and safety protections underway, and after consultation with the Supreme Court and the presiding judges of the courts, on June 15, 2020 the Delaware courts will move to Phase 2 of the Courts Reopening Plan. With important restrictions, Phase 2 opens judicial facilities to the public and expands judicial operations. We will increase activity in Phase 2 slowly, and will continue to monitor our operations and the COVID-19 pandemic in Delaware. By a modification order entered today, the Arms of the Supreme Court and the Court on the Judiciary may resume hearings.

Unless circumstances change dramatically, I intend to enter another emergency order in early July to continue Phase 2. Please note that, as of now, the next emergency order will NOT extend the deadlines in paragraphs (7)-(9) of the June 5, 2020 Administrative Order No. 7. Please plan accordingly, and for court-imposed deadlines, request an extension if necessary. Thank you.