

**SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBAL COURT  
IN AND FOR THE SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-04  
AMENDMENT TO 2020-03 ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER COURT OPERATIONS  
DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

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On March 16, 2020, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council (“Tribal Council”) declared a State of Emergency in response to the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19. The Tribal Council has issued subsequent Resolutions implementing other protective measures.

Pursuant to the administrative authority vested to the Chief Judge of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Court, the Judicial Branch issued an Administrative Order advising parties to cease and desist all land transactions not approved by the Court and an Administrative Order suspending filing requirements, docket book rules, and postponing scheduled court dates on March 17, 2020.

On April 14, 2020, the Court issued an Administrative Order authorizing remote hearings and provides guidance to Court users and attorneys on how to access the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Courts during the coronavirus pandemic.

As reiterated in the Administrative Order issued on April 14, 2020, “[c]ourts exist to ensure that citizens of a community have access to justice. [Thus,] . . . Courts should operate with a goal of serving the interests of justice and not creating barriers to access to justice.”<sup>1</sup> The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Court is committed to making the Court user friendly during this coronavirus pandemic and the ensuring the safety of the Akwesasne community and Court staff.

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Administrative Order 2020-03 Court Operations During the COVID-19 Emergency is **AMENDED** to include the following paragraphs:

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that rules located within the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Rules of Civil Procedure and the Rules of Appellate Procedure requiring that complaints, pleadings, motions, petitions, or any other Court form must be signed by the party and/or their attorney are suspended; and

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that attorneys and parties may electronically sign documents or use a conformed signature (Ex: /s/ John Doe (name of submitting party)); and

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the rules located within the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Rules of Civil Procedure and the Rules of Appellate Procedure requiring that complaints, pleadings, motions, petitions, or any other Court form must be notarized are suspended; and

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<sup>1</sup> See Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Court Administrative Order Court Operations During the COVID-19 Emergency (April 14, 2020), *see also* Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Appellate Court Administrative Order (July 17, 2019).

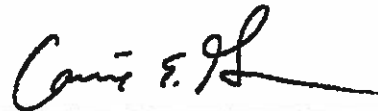
**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that all documents submitted to the Court must include the following: “I declare under Saint Regis Mohawk law that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and I understand that I may be subject to Court sanctions if it is found that I misrepresented or included information that is not true.”; and

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Administrative Order does not revoke the Administrative Order Court Operations During the COVID-19; and

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Order is intended to be interpreted broadly to ensure the protection of the Akwesasne community, Court staff, and Judges from the health risks associated with COVID-19.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Signed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.



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Carrie E. Garrow, Chief Judge  
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Court