



PRESS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Lawrence K. Marks
Chief Administrative Judge**

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NYC Housing Court Judges to Conduct Virtual Conferences in Pending Eviction Matters

NEW YORK CITY—Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks today announced that New York City Housing Court judges have begun scheduling and conducting virtual conferences in pending eviction matters in which both parties are represented by counsel. The conferences are being scheduled to facilitate settlements and reduce pending caseloads as the Court prepares for an influx of new eviction cases on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Serving the five boroughs, with nearly 240,000 new filings annually, the New York City Housing Court is among the busiest courts in the country. While the Court has remained open for business throughout the pandemic, cases heard in March were limited only to essential matters like illegal lockouts and emergency repairs. Later, in April, operations expanded to include non-essential matters such as having judges issue written decisions on motions that had previously been submitted to the Court and in bench trials that had already been conducted prior to the pandemic. Starting this week, operations expand once again to include virtual conferences presided over by judges in an effort to reach settlements without the need for trial or additional litigation.

Any party represented by an attorney in a pending eviction case may now request a settlement conference. As of today, hundreds of conferences have already been requested and are being scheduled throughout the five boroughs. Though consent from both parties is preferred, conferences will be scheduled at the request of any party who seeks one.

“This is an important step forward, as we work, in today’s highly challenging environment, to facilitate the resolution of these critical Housing Court matters and promote a fair process for all litigants,” said Chief Administrative Judge Marks.

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