

## SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY


The Supreme Court in its April 20, 2020 Order issued shortly after the outset of the COVID-19 public health emergency directed that, subject to specific exceptions, all court proceedings would continue to be conducted remotely using video and/or phone options, without a requirement of consent by the parties to proceed remotely. In its July 24, 2020 Seventh COVID-19 Omnibus Order, the Court added Family quasi-criminal (FO) matters to the list of specifically excepted court proceedings that could proceed remotely only with the consent of all attorneys and parties.

After further consideration, the Court has determined that during the pendency of COVID-19 there should be no requirement of consent for Family quasi-criminal (FO) matters to proceed remotely. Accordingly, it is ORDERED that, effective immediately and until further order:

- (1) The consent of the parties shall not be required for Family quasi-criminal (FO) matters to proceed remotely.
- (2) Consistent with Rule 1:1-2(a), the court in any individual FO matter, in the interest of justice, may conduct such matter in person rather than remotely to accommodate the legitimate needs of parties, attorneys, and others. Among other factors, courts in making such determination as to how to proceed will consider a party's demonstrated inability to

participate in remote proceedings.

For the Court,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan R. Baker", written in a cursive style.

Chief Justice

Dated: November 19, 2020