



**ONEIDA JUDICIARY**  
**EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY TEMPORARY MEASURES**  
**(Amended 6/11/2020)**

The Oneida Judiciary is issuing the following guidelines in the interest of public health and safety to provide procedures and directions for proceedings and essential court functions during the next several months. **These guidelines are emergency and temporary measures and are only effective from March 19, 2020 through July 12, 2020, or upon further notice of the court.**

As a precautionary measure, we are temporarily restricting lobby access with the intention to re-open as soon as safely possible. Court users may still connect with staff to conduct court business in a timely manner, while helping to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. First go to the Judiciary's website at <https://oneida-nsn.gov/government/judiciary/>. If you are unable to find what you are looking for, please call the Judiciary as our clerks may be able to assist you by telephone or email without you ever having to access the lobby. If you have court business that requires lobby access or in-person service, such as filing documents, the clerks will schedule a lobby appointment to meet with you. Contact information for the clerks is as follows:

- Trial Court:
  - Marie Summers: (920) 496-7217; [esummer1@oneidanation.org](mailto:esummer1@oneidanation.org)
- Family Court:
  - Pixie DeGrand: (920) 496-7219; [PDEGRAND@oneidanation.org](mailto:PDEGRAND@oneidanation.org)
  - Kris Denny: (920) 496-7221; [KDANFOR3@oneidanation.org](mailto:KDANFOR3@oneidanation.org)
- Court of Appeals:
  - Tami Hill: (920) 496-7209; [THILL@oneidanation.org](mailto:THILL@oneidanation.org)

The court will continue to follow CDC recommendations including social distancing practices, hand washing, and wiping down frequently touched surfaces. **Effective June 15, 2020, any person entering the lobby for an appointment must wear a face mask or face covering. If court staff is meeting with you in the lobby, conference room, or peacemaking room, they will also wear a face mask or face covering.**

**Trial Court**

1. All hearings shall continue to be heard at the Oneida Judiciary with mandatory telephone or videoconference appearances, unless otherwise ordered by the court.
2. A Clerk of Trial Court will reach out to all parties to arrange for a telephone appearance. Parties may also contact the Clerk of Trial Court to provide their contact information.
3. The court will be mindful of the Public Health Emergency in entering default judgments.
4. Peacemaking services for all branches of the Judiciary will continue to be available by telephone or videoconference appearance.

**Family Court**

1. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the following hearings shall continue to be heard at the Oneida Judiciary and attorneys, lay advocates, and parties, including guardians ad litem, may request telephone appearances or continuances and the hearing may be rescheduled on the court's own motion:
  - a. Court trials for contested Family Court matters.
2. The following hearings shall continue to be heard at the Oneida Judiciary with mandatory telephone or videoconference appearances, unless otherwise ordered by the court:

- a. Pre-trial and uncontested divorce hearings.
  - b. Child support and paternity hearings.
  - c. Motion hearings related to legal custody, physical placement, third-party custody, visitation rights, and moving a child's residence within or outside the state.
  - d. Review and status hearings.
  - e. Emergency Custody Hearings for child in need of protection or services (CHIPS) cases.
  - f. Plea hearings for Children's Code cases (e.g. CHIPS, guardianship, adoption, and termination of parental rights).
  - g. Dispositional hearings for Children's Code cases (e.g. CHIPS, guardianship, adoption, and termination of parental rights).
  - h. Permanency Plan Review hearings for CHIPS cases.
  - i. Motion and other hearings for Children's Code cases (e.g. CHIPS, guardianship, adoption, and termination of parental rights).
  - j. Curfew citation hearings.
3. The following proceedings will not occur at the Oneida Judiciary during the pendency of the emergency temporary measures:
  - a. Courthouse weddings.
4. For telephone appearances, parties will be noticed as follows:
  - a. For Children's Code cases, the case worker from the Oneida Nation's Indian Child Welfare Department will arrange for the telephone appearance of the parties.
  - b. For child support and paternity cases initiated by the Oneida Nation Child Support Agency, the case worker will arrange for the telephone appearance of the parties.
  - c. A Clerk of Family Court will reach out to the parties to arrange for a telephone appearance in all other matters.
    - i. The case workers may contact the clerks if they have any difficulty in arranging telephone appearances.
  - d. Parties may contact their case manager or a Clerk of Family Court with updated contact information.
5. The court will find good cause for all Children's Court matters that are set over due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. The court will be mindful of the Public Health Emergency in entering default judgments.

#### **Court of Appeals**

1. All oral arguments shall continue to be heard at the Oneida Judiciary with mandatory telephone or videoconference appearances, unless otherwise ordered by the court.
2. Parties may continue to file appeals and current briefing schedules shall continue as previously established.
3. Time limit extensions shall only be granted by the court based on a written request or motion of a party or by notice and order of the court.

If you are sick or experiencing flu-like symptoms such as a cough, fever or other respiratory problem, please do not come to the courthouse. If you have a court hearing scheduled and cannot make it due to illness, please call us at (920) 496-7200 to arrange for a telephone or videoconference appearance or request a continuance in writing. The court will liberally grant continuances for court hearings and appearances during the next several weeks.

For updates please follow the Oneida Nation's website, which is the main source of communication regarding the operations of the Nation during the COVID-19 pandemic.