

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**



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**GENERAL ORDER CONCERNING COMMISSION CASES  
IN LIGHT OF COVID19  
April 8, 2020**

In response to COVID-19 the Commission on Human Rights is operating in a remote status with no staff onsite as long as the Mayor has declared a Public Health Emergency. Email and telephone messages are being monitored. Due to the limited resources for processing mail, please call or email a request, document or image of a document to avoid a delay in processing your request. Requests and documents can be emailed to [Commission.COHR@dc.gov](mailto:Commission.COHR@dc.gov).

Consistent with the District of Columbia Superior Court's March 30, 2020, Order, the Commission is suspending, tolling, and extending deadlines during the period of the current emergency. With respect to deadlines, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, all deadlines and time limits in Commission rules and orders issued by the Commission **that would otherwise expire before May 15, 2020**, are tolled and extended during the period of the current emergency.

The deadlines tolled and extended include but are not limited to (1) rule-based deadlines such as time limits for service of process, responding to discovery requests, and events leading to a pretrial conference and (2) case-specific orders issued before **March 15, 2020**, such as scheduling orders and briefing schedules.

The new deadline will be determined by the date on which the period of tolling ends which is May 15, 2020. If an event before the start of the tolling period triggered a deadline that falls within the tolling period, the new deadline is extended by the length of the tolling period. For example, if the deadline for responding to a discovery request or opposing a motion was 7 calendar days after the tolling period began on March 15, 2020 (i.e. discovery due March 22), the new deadline would be 7 calendar days after the tolling period ends (May 15 + 7 days = May 22).

If an event during the tolling period triggered a deadline, the clock would start running on the date the tolling period ends. For example, if discovery closed during the tolling period triggering 15 days to file a dispositive motion, the parties would have 15 days after May 15, 2020, to file a dispositive motion.

A party does not need to file a motion to extend any of the existing deadlines unless the automatic extensions provided for in this Order cause a hardship. Then, a party may file a motion to shorten or extend the new deadline.

This Order does not preclude a party from taking an action even though the deadline for action is suspended, tolled, or extended because of the current emergency. During this time, the Commission will continue to decide any motions filed and hold conference calls if needed or requested. If the state of emergency for the District of Columbia is extended past May 15, 2020, this Order will be modified. Any questions can be directed to [Commission.COHR@dc.gov](mailto:Commission.COHR@dc.gov).

**SO ORDERED,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erika L. Pierson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Erika L. Pierson**  
**Chief Administrative Law Judge**