

**BEFORE THE
MARYLAND INSURANCE COMMISSIONER**

IN RE: SUSPENSION OF HEARINGS AND *
FILING DEADLINES DUE TO THE EXIGENT
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19 *

* * * * *

AMENDED STANDING ORDER 2020-05

WHEREAS, the Maryland Insurance Commissioner (“Commissioner”) previously issued Standing Order 2020-03 on March 18, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Maryland has declared a state of emergency in response to the spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19; and.

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 emergency continues to require comprehensive measures to protect the health and safety of Maryland residents and comply with the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control, the Maryland Department of Health, and other public health authorities; and

WHEREAS, The Governor has issued an executive order allowing the head of each unit of State Government to, upon a finding that the suspension will not endanger the public health welfare, or safety, suspend the effect of any procedural deadline or due date described within any State statute, rule or regulation that it administers,

WHEREAS, The impact of the restrictions required to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact upon the ability of parties and potential litigants to meet with counsel, conduct research, gather evidence, and prepare complaints, pleadings, and responses, with the impact falling hardest upon those who are impoverished; and

WHEREAS, the detrimental impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is has created a practical inability for certain deadlines to be met,

It is therefore **ORDERED** that this Order supercedes Standing Order 2020-03; and it is hereby

ORDERED by the Commissioner that, effective immediately that:

(a) The Commissioner or his designee is available for emergency hearings, and to receive and process filings received through regular mail throughout this period; and

(b) For all non-emergency administrative hearings scheduled to commence now through June 1, 2020 at the Maryland Insurance Administration, the hearings office will contact counsel (if the parties are represented) or the parties directly to provide options and/or to reschedule proceedings when appropriate; and

(c) Upon written request by counsel or parties, and a showing of good cause, certain statutory and rule deadlines related to pending hearing matters at the Maryland Insurance Administration may be extended at the discretion of the hearing officer during the COVID-19 emergency, until such time that the state of emergency issued by the Governor is rescinded; and

(d) This Order does not apply to the deadline to submit a timely request for a hearing pursuant to §§ 2-210 and 2-212 of the Insurance Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, as such requests may be submitted by e-mail or fax to the appropriate party; and it is hereby

ORDERED that this Order will be updated as circumstances warrant,

It is so **ORDERED** this 12th day of May, 2020.

ALFRED W. REDMER, JR.
Insurance Commissioner

/s/

VICTORIA AUGUST
Associate Commissioner- Hearings