

Legal Alert: Housing Court Update During Pandemic

May 5, 2020

We hope everyone is continuing to stay safe and healthy. We were able to again speak directly yesterday to Judge Schneider, the Administrative Judge of the Housing Part of the entire City of New York. Judge Schneider provided us with some updated information on the latest housing court changes and clarified some new procedures introduced this week.

Effective immediately, new motions (along with opposition papers, reply affirmations, memos of law, etc.) may be electronically filed and served in existing housing court cases using the Electronic Document Delivery System ("EDDS"). This includes cases where tenants are represented by counsel and also those that remain unrepresented. However, the courts will not decide any filed motions on default and will not issue default judgments in the event that no opposition is entered. Additionally, the courts will accept stipulations of settlement through the EDDS system and judges are also still conferencing two-attorney cases scheduled for trial via Skype for Business.

We are still not permitted to file any new cases at this time, nor can any warrant be ordered, processed or served until the state-wide moratorium is lifted. Thus, while judges should be continuing to render decisions on cases that are fully-briefed, please keep in mind that if we are successful on a motion and a judgment is issued by the Court, we cannot presently order a warrant or proceed with that judgment until the moratorium is lifted.

If you have any questions about the new court policies addressed herein, or would like to discuss the potential filing of a new motion on an existing case, please contact one of our attorneys at your earliest convenience.