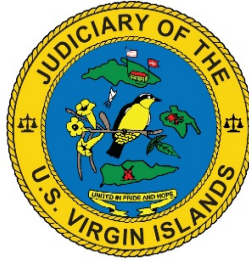


JUDICIAL BRANCH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE



PRESS RELEASE

September 18, 2017

Press Release No. 2017-008

Chief Justice Rhys S. Hodge wishes to advise the general public and members of the Virgin Islands Bar that the Judicial Branch of the Virgin Islands will be closed to the public at 2:00 pm today, Monday, September 18, 2017 in final preparations for the arrival of Hurricane Maria. Filings will be accepted via secured lock-box at both Supreme and Superior Court locations in each district.

Previously Scheduled Matters: Once post Hurricane Maria assessments have been made, the public will be notified of a schedule for the resumption of services. All previously scheduled matters, including Advice of Rights and family emergency hearings will be rescheduled to conform with this closure.

Systems: All systems within the Judicial Branch will be taken offline.

Time limits: All time limits prescribed or allowed by rule of procedure, court order, statutes applicable to court proceedings, or otherwise pertaining to court proceedings shall remain tolled through 11:59 .m. on Sunday October 1, 2017. Filings will be accepted via secured lock-box at both Supreme and Superior Court locations in each district.

Electronic filing requirements: In accordance with the Judicial Branch's Administrative Order No. 2017-002, the electronic filing requirements of Rule 40 of the Virgin Islands Rules of Appellate Procedure will remain suspended until further orders of the Court. Filings will be accepted via secured lock-box at the Supreme locations at 161B Crown Bay.

As of the last update, Hurricane Maria is a Category 1 Hurricane and is anticipated to be a Category 3 or 4 Hurricane by the time it approaches the Virgin Islands. All court facilities will be closed from 2:00 p.m. today until further notice. We are asking the public to be vigilant in your preparedness and to remain out of harm's way until this storm has passed.

For more information, contact:

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