

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SUPREME COURT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
O R D E R

On January 24, 2020, the New Hampshire Court Accreditation Commission, see RSA 490:5-a to -e, notified the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager of the Town of Plaistow, New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Bureau of Court Facilities that it had voted unanimously to designate the building located at 14 Elm Street, Plaistow, New Hampshire currently housing the 10th Circuit - District Division - Plaistow as “not accredited” effective May 1, 2020. See RSA 490:5-d, :5-e. This designation resulted from a comprehensive review of the safety of the facility, including inspections by Commission members and review of its compliance with State and Federal safety and accessibility standards by the Governor’s Commission on Disability, the United States Marshal’s Service, and the Office of the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal. See RSA 490:5-c. The current lease agreement on that facility between the Town of Plaistow and the New Hampshire Department of Administrative Services expires June 30, 2020, and will not be renewed.

Pursuant to its constitutional authority and powers of general superintendence over the New Hampshire court system, see N.H. CONST. pt. II, art. 73-a, the authority granted in RSA 490:4 to supervise trial courts, see also RSA 490-F:2, and in order to protect the rights, safety, and security of the

public and Judicial Branch employees who must conduct business at the 10th Circuit – District Division - Plaistow, the Supreme Court enters the following orders:

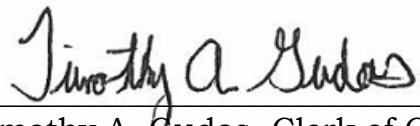
1. All Judicial Branch activity at the 10th Circuit - District Division - Plaistow facility will cease on or before June 30, 2020.
2. All District Division cases whose jurisdiction emanates from the towns of Atkinson, Hampstead, and Plaistow currently heard at the 10th Circuit - District Division – Plaistow, and all cases filed on or after June 16, 2020 arising from those towns, will be administered and adjudicated at the 10th Circuit – District Division – Salem effective June 16, 2020.
3. All District Division cases whose jurisdiction emanates from the towns of Danville, Kingston, and Newton currently heard at the 10th Circuit - District Division – Plaistow, and all cases filed on or after June 16, 2020 arising from those towns, will be administered and adjudicated at the 10th Circuit – District Division – Brentwood effective June 16, 2020.
4. In the interest of judicial efficiency, and to increase access to justice for New Hampshire citizens residing in the 10th Circuit, and pursuant to the Supreme Court’s authority over the Circuit Court-Family Division, see RSA 490-D:4:
 - All Family Division matters whose jurisdiction emanates from the towns of Atkinson, Hampstead, and Plaistow, including matters currently pending and all cases filed on or after June 16, 2020

arising from those towns, will be administered and adjudicated at the 10th Circuit – Family Division – Salem effective June 16, 2020.

- All Family Division matters whose jurisdiction emanates from the towns of Danville, Kingston, and Newton, including matters currently pending and all cases filed on or after June 16, 2020 arising from those towns, will be administered and adjudicated at the 10th Circuit – Family Division – Brentwood effective June 16, 2020.

All other existing cases shall continue to be administered and adjudicated at the Circuit Court location in which they are currently pending. Nothing in this order prohibits any party from requesting a case transfer as the interests of justice or efficiency may so require.

Issued: May 12, 2020

ATTEST: 
Timothy A. Gudas, Clerk of Court
Supreme Court of New Hampshire