

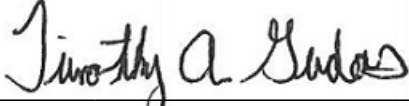
THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SUPREME COURT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

**EMERGENCY ORDER CONCERNING APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL IN  
CRIMINAL CASES IN SUPERIOR COURT AND CIRCUIT COURT**

Pursuant to its constitutional and statutory authority and powers of general superintendence over the New Hampshire court system, and upon consideration of the actions taken by Governor Sununu under RSA 4:45, the Supreme Court issues the following order to safeguard an accused's right to counsel during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Effective immediately and through May 25, 2020 and/or the last day of a Declared State of Emergency, the procedural requirement set forth in RSA 604-A:2 that a defendant complete a financial statement before the superior court or circuit court appoints counsel is modified to allow (1) a court to appoint counsel automatically for the defendant's arraignment or first court appearance and (2) a financial statement to be submitted to the court on the defendant's behalf for court review within 30 days of appointment.

Issued: May 14, 2020

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