



# **STATE OF RHODE ISLAND STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS (during COVID-19 pandemic)**

**Prepared by**

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## **EXTENDED STATUTES OF LIMITATIONS DURING THIS TIME OF COVID-19**

The Rhode Island Supreme Court has released periodic executive orders addressing the Judiciary's COVID-19 response. On March 17, 2020, the Rhode Island Supreme Court entered its first COVID-19 executive order (No. 2020-04). This executive order not only extended filing deadlines but also provided that "[r]equests for extensions to applicable statutes of limitations necessitated by the current health crisis shall be entertained by the respective courts after thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this order."

In each executive order issued thereafter, the Court has explicitly stated that "[d]ue to the availability of the electronic filing system, statutes of limitations are not tolled and shall continue to run." As such, the Judiciary has proceeded as usual.

## **TEMPORARY RULES EXTENDING TIME LIMITS TO SERVE COMPLAINTS AND/OR SPECIAL RULES RELATING TO METHODS OF SERVICE**

As of May 30, 2020, all extensions of filing deadlines in the State of Rhode Island expired and have not been extended. The following information explains the Rhode Island Judiciary's filing deadlines.

In the first COVID-19 executive order entered by the State Supreme Court on March 17, 2020, the Court extended all payment dates and court-imposed filing deadlines by thirty (30) calendar days. On April 8, 2020, the Supreme Court renewed this order, extending payment deadlines indefinitely and extending filing deadlines that would have expired between March 17, 2020, and May 17, 2020, to May 29, 2020.

On May 15, 2020, the Supreme Court entered executive order No. 2020-12 permitting courts to reinstitute payment deadlines and revoking any temporary rules extending filing deadlines. Any future extensions must be made by motion and granted by the court in accordance with the rules of each court.

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