

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DIVISION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
NOTICE OF RULE RELAXATION
PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 103 (MURPHY)(MARCH 9, 2020)
COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY**

Temporary Rule Relaxation adopted by Rachel Wainer Apter, Director, Division on Civil Rights

Date: March 23, 2020

Authority: N.J.S.A. App.A:9-45 & App. A:9-47 ; Executive Order No. 103 (Murphy)(“EO 103”)

Effective Date: March 23, 2020


Expiration Date: This Relaxation shall remain in effect until the expiration of the State of Emergency established by Executive Order 103.

This is an emergency adoption of a temporary rule relaxation of the Division of Civil Rights Administrative Rules at N.J.A.C. 13:4-1.1, et seq. Section 6 of EO 103, issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, authorizes agency heads to waive/suspend/modify any existing rule, where the enforcement of the rule would be detrimental to the public welfare during the emergency, notwithstanding the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act or any law to the contrary. Pursuant to that authority, and with the approval of the Governor and in consultation with the State Director of Emergency Management and the Commissioner of the Department of Health, the Division on Civil Rights is relaxing its rules as follows:

In light of the public health hazards related to the novel coronavirus outbreak referenced in Governor Murphy’s Executive Order No. 103, dated March 9, 2020, I, the DCR Director, have exercised my discretion pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:4-1.3(b) to relax certain rules or procedures governing Civil Rights matters as the Director deems appropriate in cases before the Division. For the duration of the emergency, DCR will, wherever possible: (1) accept an electronic signature on verified complaints; (2) serve verified complaints on Respondents by electronic mail with a request for acknowledgment of receipt; (3) permit Respondents to serve Answers, Position Statements, and Responses to Document and Information Requests by email.

I find that relaxation of the Division of Civil Rights Administrative Rules at N.J.A.C. 13:4-1.1, et seq. is necessary because enforcement of the existing rules would be detrimental to the public welfare during this emergency.

March 23, 2020 _____
Date



Rachel Wainer Apter
Director, Division on Civil Rights