

RULING

of the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and the Presidium of the Council of Judges of the Russian Federation

(as amended on 29 April 2020)

In order to counter the spread of the novel coronavirus infection (COVID-19) on the territory of the Russian Federation, in accordance with Article 14 of Federal Law No. 68 of 21 December 1994 “On Protection of the Population and Territories from Natural and Human-Made Emergencies”, as well as in order to ensure compliance with provisions of Federal Law No. 52 of 30 March 1999 “On Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population”, executive order of the President of the Russian Federation No. 239 of 2 April 2020 “On Measures to Ensure the Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population on the Territory of the Russian Federation due to the Spread of the Novel Coronavirus Infection (COVID-19)” **and executive order of the President of the Russian Federation No. 294 of 28 April 2020 “On Prolongation of Measures to Ensure the Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population on the Territory of the Russian Federation due to the Spread of the Novel Coronavirus Infection (COVID-19)”**, decrees of the Chief State Sanitary Physician of the Russian Federation No. 2 of 24 January 2020 “On Additional Actions to Prevent the Import and Spread of the Novel Coronavirus Infection Caused by 2019-nCoV”, No. 5 of 2 March 2020 “On Additional Measures to Lower the Risks of Import and Spread of the Novel Coronavirus Infection (2019-nCoV)”, No. 7 of 18 March “On Ensuring the Isolation Regime in Order to Prevent the Spread of COVID-2019”, No. 9 of 30 March 2020 “On Additional Measures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-2019”,

guided by Item 8 of Part 1 of Article 7 of Federal Constitutional Law No. 3 of 5 February 2014 “On the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation” and Article 12 of the Rules of the Council of Judges of the Russian Federation, the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and the Presidium of the Council of Judges of the Russian Federation

HEREBY RULE:

1. Personal reception of citizens in courts shall be halted. It is recommended to submit documents through the electronic Internet receptions of the courts or through the postal service.

2. The timely reception, processing and registration of documents submitted to the courts through the postal service and in electronic form, in particular in the form of electronic documents, shall be ensured.

3. It is recommended to consider the cases and materials of urgent nature, in particular those regarding protection of constitutional rights of citizens to freedom and personal inviolability, protection of health and property (regarding selection, prolongation, cancellation or alteration of a measure of pre-trial restriction; regarding the protection of interests of an underage person or a person recognised as legally incapable in the stipulated manner, where her/his statutory representative refuses to consent to medical intervention necessary to save that person's life; on administrative offences stipulated in Parts 3–5 of Article 29.6 of the Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Offences¹; on severe disciplinary offences committed during disciplinary arrest of military personnel and regarding the enforcement of disciplinary arrest; on provisional measures; and other); cases considered in the manner of court order proceedings and simplified proceedings; cases, in which all the participants have filed motions for consideration of the case in their absence, unless their participation during the consideration of the case is obligatory.

4. Taking into account the facts of the case, the opinions of the participants of proceedings and the conditions of the high-alert regime implemented in the corresponding constituent entity of the Russian Federation, the court may decide to consider a case that is not indicated in Item 3 of this Ruling at its own discretion.

5. It is recommended to the courts, where they have the technical capacity, taking into account the opinions of participants of proceedings, to hold court sessions regarding the cases (materials) referred to in Items 3 and 4 of this Ruling with the use of videoconferencing and (or) web conferencing system, in particular taking into account the experience of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. In order to participate in a court session via web conferencing, participants of proceedings submit to court an application in electronic form, attaching to it electronic copies of identification documents and of documents confirming their powers.

5.1. The rules stipulated in decrees of the Chief State Sanitary Physician of the Russian Federation and the rules of conduct for citizens in the event of introduction of a high alert regime in a constituent entity of the Russian

¹ Cases on various offences related to the holding of elections and referendums, as well as cases on offences punished by administrative arrest or deportation for natural persons, temporary suspension of activities for legal persons – *translator's note*.

Federation, including the social distancing rules, shall be enforced in the courts.

6. All the judges and members of the court staff showing the slightest signs of infection shall engage in self-isolation.

7. Access to court buildings shall be limited for persons, who are not participants of court proceedings in cases referred to in Items 3 and 4 of this Ruling.

8. Ruling of the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and the Presidium of the Council of Judges of the Russian Federation of 18 March 2020 is abrogated.

9. This Ruling is effective from 8 April 2020 to **11 May 2020** (inclusive of both dates).

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
of the Russian Federation

V.M. Lebedev

Moscow
8 April 2020

President of the Council of Judges
of the Russian Federation

V.V. Momotov

Moscow
8 April 2020
No. 821