



Covid-19. Emergency and urgent measures concerning the judicial activity

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On March 8, 2020, the Italian government adopted the Law Decree no. 11 which establishes extraordinary and urgent measures following the *Covid-19* emergency.

Article 1, paragraph 1, of the Decree Law n. 11 provides for the **postponement of all pending civil and criminal hearings to a date following March 22, 2020**. Paragraph 2 of the aforementioned article 1 provides that **any judicial term for the fulfillment of any act related to the civil and criminal proceedings are suspended until March 22, 2020**.

In such a period, the judicial offices may adopt a series of measures to face the epidemiological emergency and limit the impact (i.e. limitations to public access, opening hours and access to services). Judicial offices will also adopt binding guidelines regulating the discussion of civil hearings through remote connections using the *Skype for Business and Teams* applications.

Judicial offices may also order the postponement of pending civil and criminal hearings on a date following May 31, 2020, with **some exceptions**, including (i) proceedings concerning the protection of **fundamental rights**, (ii) all proceedings whose **delayed hearing may cause serious harm** to the parties and (iii) certain particular civil proceedings whose **hearings do not require the physical presence of the parties** and can be carried out by exchange and filing of online written notes.