

Royal **Decree 463/2020 of 14 March, declaring the state of alarm for the management of the health crisis situation caused by Covid-19, suspended or interrupted, by its additional provisions 2nd, 3rd and 4th, the computation of the procedural and administrative time limits, as well as the limitation and expiration periods of any action and rights until such time as the Royal Decree or any of its extensions ceases to apply (as agreed by the Royal Decrees of 487/2020 of 10, 27).**

On the same day, March 14th, the Permanent Commission of the General Council of the Judiciary suspended all **judicial proceedings for the duration of the state of alarm except for the essential services established in the Resolution of the Secretary of State of Justice of the same date.**

On 18 March, the Standing Committee of the CGPJ agreed that during the state of alarm, only briefs relating to urgent judicial proceedings and always telematically could be submitted through LexNET or equivalent system in certain Autonomous Communities.

On April 13, the resolution of the Ministry of Justice adapting the provision of the public service of justice was brought to light in Royal Decree 487/2020, of 10 April, and the third agreement of the Standing Committee of the CGPJ, under which on 15 April the limitations established on March 18 for the submission of submissions were lifted.

Finally, on 29 April, Royal **Decree 16/2020 of 28 April on procedural and organisational measures to deal with Covid-19 in the field of the Administration of Justice was published in the BOE, the purpose of** which, according to its explanatory statement, is to:

- The progressive revival of the normal functioning of the Courts and Tribunals.
- Ensure an agile exit to the accumulation of suspended procedures when the alarm state is lifted.
- Take measures in anticipation of the increase in litigation that will arise as a result of the extraordinary measures taken and the economic situation resulting from the health crisis.
- Introduce measures to ensure a safe distance in the conduct of public hearings and hearings, with the promotion of the incorporation of new technologies in order to avoid excessive concentrations in court offices.

And among its measures **we highlight:**

- **They declare themselves skilful for all court proceedings on 11-31 August, except Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.**

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- **The suspended procedural deadlines will be computed again from the beginning, the** first day of the computation being the next business day to the one on which the alarm state ceases to have effect.
- **The time limit for appealing judgments and decisions terminating the proceedings and which have** been notified during the period of the alarm or are notified within twenty working days of its completion within a period equal to that provided for for announcing, preparing, formalising or bringing an appeal is extended.
- **Processing of the challenge of temporary employment regulation files according to the modality of collective conflict.**
- **Preferential processing of certain procedures from the end of** the alarm and until 31 December 2020:
 - In the civil court order: the proceedings arising from the failure of the creditor entity to recognise the legal moratorium on habitual housing mortgages and property affected by economic activity, lease processes arising from any claim that tenants may raise due to the lack of application of the legal moratorium or mandatory extension of the contract, as well as insolvency proceedings of debtors natural persons who do not have the status of entrepreneurs.
 - In the contentious-administrative order: action against acts and decisions of the Public Administrations refusing the application of aid and legally envisaged measures to alleviate the economic effects of the Covid-19.
 - In the social jurisdictional order: urgent and preferential nature for dismissal proceedings, those arising from the termination of employment contracts for objective reasons and those arising from the procedure for declaring the duty and form of recovery of working hours not provided during the paid leave provided for in Royal Decree-Law 10/2020, the procedures for the implementation of the MECUIDA plan of article 6 of Royal Decree-Law No. 8/2020 and the procedures for the individual or co-educational challenge of the temporary employment regulations regulated in articles 22 and 23 of the Royal Decree-Law, as well as the procedures for the individual or collective objections to the temporary regulation of employment regulated in articles 22 and 23 of the Royal Decree-Law.
- **Extension of the period for fulfilling the duty to apply for creditors until 12/31/2020 for debtors who are in the** state of insolvency, whether or not they have previously made use of the provisions of article 5 bis of the Law.

- **Conduct of hearings, trials, appearances and statements preferably through the use of telematics, except in** the criminal jurisdiction for serious crimes.
- Limitation of public access to courtrooms.
- Dispenses from the use of toga in public hearings.
- **Limitation of attention to the public, which will be carried out by telephone or via email enabled to do so, and exceptionally in person with prior appointment.**

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