

**BEFORE THE
MARYLAND INSURANCE COMMISSIONER**

IN RE: SUSPENSION OF *
HEARINGS UNDER THE EXIGENT
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19 *

* * * * *

STANDING ORDER 2020-03

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Maryland has declared a state of emergency in response to the spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19; and.

WHEREAS, due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and consistent with guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control, the Maryland Department of Health, and other public health authorities, an emergency exists that poses a threat of imminent and potentially lethal harm to vulnerable individuals, and authorities have advised taking precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease;

WHEREAS preventing the spread of COVID-19 requires limiting public contact to essential matters; and

WHEREAS, participants in administrative hearings are necessarily often in close proximity to each other, it is hereby

ORDERED by the Maryland Insurance Commissioner (“Commissioner”) that, effective immediately, all scheduled administrative hearings scheduled to commence now through April 1, 2020 are **POSTPONED** and **CONTINUED**, and will be rescheduled at a later date, unless the presiding hearing officer in an individual case issues an order after the date of this Order directing that a particular proceeding will be held on or before April 1,

2020. The hearing and appeals clerk will contact counsel (if the parties are represented) or the parties directly to reschedule proceedings when appropriate; and it is further

ORDERED that the Commissioner or his designee will be available for emergency hearings, and to receive and process filings received through regular mail throughout this period. Please contact the hearings and appeals Clerk at 410-468-2018 or via e-mail at appealsclerkcontacts.mia@maryland.gov with any questions or concerns.

ORDERED that this Order will be updated as circumstances warrant,

It is so **ORDERED** this 18th day of March, 2020.

ALFRED W. REDMER, JR.
Insurance Commissioner

/s/

VICTORIA AUGUST
Associate Commissioner- Hearings