

**Governor's Proclamation
Number JBE 2020 – 30**

On March 16, 2020, Governor Edwards ordered a number of additional restrictions and suspensions in further response to the threat of COVID-19. Under this most recent proclamation, all administrative agencies and boards, which includes the Patient's Compensation Fund Oversight Board ("PCF") are ordered to use due diligence in communicating with attorneys, parties to proceedings with pending deadlines, and the public how the restrictions and suspensions are being interpreted. Accordingly, the PCF hereby provides the following regarding its interpretation of JBE 2020 – 30 relative to deadlines and the PCF:

- a. All legal deadlines and all other deadlines in legal proceedings found in the Louisiana Medical Malpractice Act, La. R.S. 40:1231.8, *et seq.* (the "MMA"), including but not limited to the following, shall be suspended, commencing March 17, 2020 to April 13, 2020 (unless the applicable provisions of JBE 2020 – 30 are terminated earlier):
 - (i) payment of filing fees or the submission of a physician affidavit or *in forma pauperis* ruling;
 - (ii) selection of attorney chairman, with and without involvement of Louisiana Supreme Court;
 - (iii) PCF's notice(s)/confirmation(s) to claimant(s) and health care provider(s);
 - (iv) refund of filing fees;
 - (v) issuance of certificate of enrollment;
 - (vi) selection of health care provider members of medical review panel;
 - (vii) rendering of opinion by medical review panel;
 - (viii) written request seeking expedited medical review panel process;
 - (ix) payment by PCF of future medical care costs; and
 - (x) payment by PCF of judgment or settlement of medical malpractice claim.

- b. The suspension of the legal deadlines and other deadlines in legal proceedings discussed above shall not affect the deadlines in the MMA and the PCF's rules relative to the payment of PCF surcharges:
 - (i) by health care providers to insurers, agents of insurers, risk managers, or surplus line agents;
 - (ii) by insurers, agents of insurers, risk managers, or surplus line agents to the PCF; and
 - (iii) by self-insured health care providers to the PCF.