

**STATE OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
FLORIDA NEW MOTOR VEHICLE ARBITRATION BOARD**

**IN RE: SUSPENSION OF STATUTES,
RULES AND ORDERS PURSUANT
TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-52, MADE
NECESSARY BY THE COVID-19
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY –
CASES BEFORE THE FLORIDA NEW
MOTOR VEHICLE ARBITRATION
BOARD.**

BOARD EMERGENCY ORDER 20-001

WHEREAS the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Orders 20-51 and 20-52 in response to the emergence of the COVID-19 virus, a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission; and

WHEREAS the Governor of the State of Florida has ordered, and the State Surgeon General has issued, a declaration of public health emergency in the State of Florida, recognizing that COVID-19 is a communicable disease with significant morbidity and mortality, presenting a severe danger to public health in Florida; and

WHEREAS the Governor of the State of Florida has recognized that the special duties and responsibilities resting upon some State, regional, and local agencies and other governmental bodies in response to the emergency may require them to suspend the application of the statutes, rules, ordinances, and orders they administer; and

WHEREAS the Florida New Motor Vehicle Arbitration Board (the “Board”) is responsible for conducting arbitration hearings throughout the State, in a trial-like setting, to resolve disputes between consumers and motor vehicle manufacturers. These hearings are held in conference rooms located at both state and local community

venues such as court houses and libraries, each requiring the attendance of arbitrators, parties, witnesses, and Board staff members, some of whom may travel a significant distance to attend; and

WHEREAS pursuant to section 681.1095(6), Florida Statutes, the Board is to hear each dispute within 40 days, and render the decision within 60 days, after approval of the party's request for arbitration. The Board is also authorized to continue hearings on its own motion, and any failure to hear a case or render a decision within those time frames does not invalidate the decision.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing:

1. From the date of this Notice through April 13, 2020, no arbitration hearings will be held. All hearings throughout the State that are currently scheduled are hereby CANCELLED and will be rescheduled for a date to be determined. All parties/attorneys will be notified in writing of the new hearing dates when the hearings are rescheduled.

2. Further assessment will be made prior to April 13, 2020, regarding the need for additional scheduling considerations.

3. Anyone with questions concerning either this ORDER or the status of a particular case before the Board should contact the Office of the Attorney General, Lemon Law Arbitration Program at 850-414-3500.

DONE AND ORDERED this 16th day of March, 2020

FLORIDA NEW MOTOR VEHICLE ARBITRATION BOARD