

**AGENCY ANNEX S
VERMONT JUDICIARY**

I. MISSION

To provide every person a forum to obtain “right and justice ... promptly and without delay; conformably to the laws.” (Vermont Constitution, Ch. 1, Article 4)

Goals:

- Issue quality judicial decisions that do justice for the litigants, establish clear and ascertainable law, and apply the law correctly to the facts.
- Issue timely judicial decisions at minimal expense to the litigants and the taxpayers.
- Provide the public with the services they need to access the courts, understand court operations and use the courts appropriately.
- Provide the public with staff services needed to promote the fair, timely, inexpensive resolution of disputes.
- Protect persons from the abuse of others and from the arbitrary use of governmental power

II. AUTHORITY

III. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

State agency and department heads and their staffs develop, plan and train to internal policies and procedures to meet preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery needs as identified in this plan including annexes, appendices, tabs and other supporting documents including the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Training includes not only what may be accomplished within the agency but multi-level, interagency training and exercises to develop and maintain necessary capabilities.

An immediate mobilization of the justice system is essential to support societal stability and protect individuals, families, businesses and institutions. An operational court system stands against the chaos created by the disaster, protecting individual rights, providing for the prompt and lawful processing of those charged with crimes, and maintaining the Rule of Law. Courts need to be open to arraign people who’ve been arrested, to issue warrants, to issue quarantine orders, non-trespass orders, etc.

The stress and turmoil of a disaster also immediately impact families. Vulnerable children and other family members depend upon the courts to be available to recognize their urgent and immediate needs for protection and care. Courts need to be open to issue emergency detention orders for neglected children, issue domestic violence protection orders, etc.

Courts must be available to address eviction proceedings filed by landlords attempting to repair their buildings, insurance claims, and victim compensation claims.

The situation and assumptions in section ii of the Base plan also apply.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following chart outlines the emergency response organization of the Judiciary:

The Judiciary is a support agency for all of the State Support Functions and assumes the responsibilities as outlined in those annexes.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

This Annex will be implemented with the assigned responsibilities by means of direct coordination from the Commissioner, Department of Public Safety or Director, VEM with the Commissioner and/or upon the order of the Governor within the framework of the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP).

VI. ADMINISTRATION

The is responsible for the overall emergency response of the Judiciary.

VII. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

In accordance with the provisions of title 20, “agency heads will in addition to any deputy authorized pursuant to law, designate by title three emergency interim successors and specify their order of succession. These designations shall, each year, be reviewed and revised, as necessary, to ensure their current status.”

Line of succession for the Judiciary is as follows: