

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 7, 2009**

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**Vermont Supreme Court declares 12 Unpaid Furlough Days for all State Judiciary Employees**

The Vermont Supreme Court announced today that it has declared 12 judicial branch furlough days between now and the end of the 2010 fiscal year. State Judiciary employees will not be paid on furlough days.

All Vermont **courts and courthouses will be closed on furlough days**, subject to certain limited exceptions as described in annotations to the schedule. Two courts will be available to the entire state on furlough days on a restricted basis to handle proceedings required for public health and safety.

The Supreme Court considered a number of different ways to achieve its proportionate share of the state personal services budget reduction, including a flexible schedule of unpaid days for each employee. Ultimately, however, the fixed furlough day schedule was chosen as the most manageable way to address the need for immediate budget cuts and in recognition of the fact that court operations are already strained due to the high number of position vacancies in the courts.

During weeks in which a furlough day falls, the half-day court closing policy [resulting from budget rescissions suffered in FY2009 and continued as a reduction to the base budget in FY2010] will not be in effect. In other words, each affected court will continue to observe the half-day closing period each week EXCEPT during a week in which a furlough day falls.

The furlough day schedule is posted on the Vermont Judiciary website at [www.vermontjudiciary.org](http://www.vermontjudiciary.org). Those with questions regarding the application of the furlough day schedule or the half-day court closing policy to a particular court should contact their local court. The contact information for all courts is set forth on the Judiciary website at "Contact Us."