



NEWS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Joseph A. Zayas
Chief Administrative Judge**

Contact:
Al Baker, Communications Director
Arlene Hackel
(212) 428-2500
publicinformation@nycourts.gov
www.nycourts.gov/press

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Richmond County Surrogate's Court Launches Satellite Facility, Expanding Staten Islanders' Access to Essential Services

STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK—New York State court system officials joined the New York Public Library's Staten Island Neighborhood Library Network today to inaugurate the Richmond County Surrogate's Court's new satellite facility, located in the County's Charleston Library Branch at 225 Bricktown Way, Staten Island. This initiative marks an exciting step in the Surrogate Court's ongoing efforts to expand access to essential services within the community.

The Charleston Library satellite court will provide court users with convenient, local access to Surrogate's Court services — including estate administration, small estate affidavits, and guardianship applications — in a modern, community-centered environment. This expansion reflects the Court's steadfast dedication to reducing barriers to justice and improving operational efficiency.

"We are excited to welcome everyone to our new satellite court at the Charleston Branch. This expansion ensures that justice is not only fair, but also accessible," said Richmond County Surrogate Matthew J. Titone. "By establishing a presence at the Charleston Library Branch, we are meeting people where they are and strengthening the connection between the Court and the Staten Island community."

Surrogate Titone also expressed his deep gratitude to Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas and the Unified Court System's judicial leadership, the Office for Justice Initiatives, the Bar, and the New York Public Library System for their support. Additionally, he emphasized the Richmond County Surrogate's Court's commitment to providing compassionate services to residents and their families, especially during moments of grief, and to continually improving access and convenience for all.

"The opening of this satellite court demonstrates our ongoing commitment to bringing the justice system closer to the people it serves. By expanding our reach into neighborhood spaces, we are creating opportunities for more efficient, supportive, and community-focused court operations," said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George.

“This satellite court stands as a powerful reminder that expanding access to court services is not simply an operational improvement — it is a commitment to dignity, equity, and community. Providing essential services directly within neighborhoods reduces barriers, strengthens trust, and facilitates fair, timely, and compassionate pathways to the justice system,” said Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives Edwina G. Richardson.

“Increasing access points for vital court services is essential for ensuring fairness across all communities. This satellite location will help more New Yorkers navigate sensitive legal matters with dignity, clarity, and support,” said Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts Adam Silvera.

“The New York Public Library is dedicated to providing New Yorkers with free access to essential services and resources they need to thrive,” said Yolanda Gleason, Borough Director for NYPL’s Staten Island Neighborhood Library Network. “We are proud to partner with the Richmond County Surrogate’s Court to bring these legal resources directly into the Charleston Library. Libraries are a trusted community hub and this innovative partnership will make these crucial legal services more accessible for Staten Island communities.”

“The Richmond County Surrogate’s Court handles deeply personal matters related to the probate of a loved one’s estate,” noted Richmond County Surrogate’s Court Chief Clerk Ronald M. Cerrachio. “This new satellite court will offer both an in-person clerk and a court attorney, providing another location to access forms, information, and filing assistance.”

Borough President Vito J. Fossella added, “Part of justice is making sure that those who need to access the courts are able to do so. Early indications from the Charleston Surrogate’s Court Satellite are that this expansion will serve a real need for Staten Islanders trying to access justice in a way that is available to them. We thank the Richmond County Surrogate’s Court and the New York Public Library for bringing needed court services to the South Shore.”

The new satellite court will operate every Thursday from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM for appointments and walk-ins. Appointments may be scheduled by emailing RichSurrSatellite@nycourts.gov or calling 718-675-8500.

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