



JUDICIARY THE BAHAMAS

Good morning and thank you for attending today's virtual press conference by the Office of the Judiciary. I am joined from the Judiciary by the Honourable Chief Justice Sir Brian M. Moree, Q.C and our Court Administrator for the Magistrates Court, Mrs Alphanette Grant.

March 15, 2021 was a historic day for litigants, attorneys and customers of the Magistrates Court, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal because for the first time they were able to make payments via debit and credit card using the **Bahamas**

Digital Payment Platform (DigiPay) for:

- (1) Court filing fees in each of the Courts:
- (2) Other court fees; for example, for court transcripts and certified copies of court documents;
- (3) Queens Fines including:
 - (i) Traffic tickets and
 - (ii) Breach of curfew offences; and
 - (iii) Cancellation of warrants.

The significance of this day cannot be overestimated because the ability to make payments using debit and credit card provides an additional convenience to our litigants and attorney. More importantly, it has already happened; it has been launched

in each of the Courts; the Magistrates Court, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal. As oftentimes happens, there is a pre-announcement of a future date when it will happen. That is not the case here, DigiPay is here and we are so very pleased to offer this service.

At the moment these payments can only be made in-person, however, it is expected that with the court reform and modernization projects presently underway, it is a matter of time before these payments can be made online.

Before I to defer to the Honourable Chief Justice Sir Brian M. Moree, Q.C., I must express thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Finance and in particular, Acting Financial Secretary Marlon Johnson who promptly answered my plea for this service for our customers and Miss Reilly and her team of professionals including Miss Kristie Powell who made it all happen in record time. We will continue to keep them on speed dial because we need them to help us bring our Courts in Grand Bahama and Abaco along.

To the public we say, that it our intention to continue to find better ways to serve you more efficiently. Today, is one of them and as I said before, it is only a matter of time before the ability to pay via debit and credit card will be available online.

Finally, I invite you to follow us on Twitter and Facebook and stay tuned to our website as we continue to roll out more initiatives aimed at reaching our vision of a higher functioning court system.

Thank you and continue to adhere to the protocols aimed at keeping us all safe.

I now invite the Honourable Chief Justice to bring remarks.

March 25, 2021
Camille Darville-Gomez
Registrar
Supreme Court of the Bahamas