

March 27, 2020

Justices, Judges, Circuit Court Clerks and Kentucky Court of Justice Personnel:

Thanks for another week of working together during state of emergency

We've finished another hectic week under the cloud of COVID-19 and I appreciate your flexibility and patience as we adapt to this rapidly changing situation.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court issued new amendments to the [order](#) limiting in-person court proceedings and extended those restrictions to April 24. And today the Supreme Court provided [guidance](#) for custody and parenting time orders during the pandemic. We will continue to update court procedures as necessary during this crisis.

Last Friday, I sent a call to action about the need to safely reduce inmate populations to avoid an outbreak of COVID-19 in our county jails. I'm encouraged by the numbers indicating a decrease in the pretrial population over the past 30 days. I appreciate your efforts to work with local officials and hope that those numbers will continue to decline over the next week.

As I mentioned earlier this week, the Judicial Branch provides essential, constitutionally mandated services that require us to stay open during the state of emergency. I realize that our "new normal" can be very stressful, but all of you have done a tremendous job carrying on with court operations and I'm grateful for your service and dedication.

I hope that you and your families are taking precautions to stay healthy and safe. I'm confident that all of us who serve the courts will get through this by supporting each other in the face of new challenges.

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