

April 17, 2020

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

It has been another busy week as we continue to do our part to flatten the curve by adhering to social distancing recommendations. This week we extended three Supreme Court orders that were set to expire May 1.

Through May 31, we will continue to suspend in-person services, conduct court proceedings remotely, maintain a 50/50 staffing schedule for the offices of circuit and appellate clerks, and offer special emergency directed leave to employees at high risk for infection who cannot telecommute.

The Supreme Court also took additional steps to protect the health and safety of our criminal justice partners and defendants housed in county jails by issuing a new emergency release order and implementing standards for pretrial drug testing providers and defendants to reduce their risk of exposure to COVID-19.

And finally, the AOC Department of Human Resources updated three pandemic-related personnel guides: the KCOJ Pandemic or Public Health Emergency Staffing Guide, the Staffing Guidance for Court Clerks During a Pandemic or Public Health Emergency and Timekeeping Guidance for Employees During Public Health Emergency. These revisions clarified when certain paid leaves may be available and offered new guidance on the Code of Conduct, outside employment, compensatory time, and when to send employees home and when they can return to work.

We're monitoring recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Gov. Beshear to determine when we can safely return to normal operations. In the meantime, we will continue to take precautionary measures so that we can all stay safe and well. I can't say it often enough – thank you for carrying out the important work of the courts during these challenging times.



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