

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

SUFFOLK, ss.

OE-144

In Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic

ORDER REGARDING ACCESS TO STATE COURTHOUSES & COURT FACILITIES

In light of public health concerns arising from the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and the State of Emergency declared by the Governor, the Court, pursuant to its superintendence authority, issues the following ORDER to protect the public health by reducing the risk of exposure to the virus and slowing the spread of the disease.

Effective immediately, the following persons shall not enter any Massachusetts state courthouse or other state court facility, including, but not limited to, probation offices:

- Persons who have been diagnosed with, or have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with, coronavirus;
- Persons with apparent symptoms of coronavirus, such as fever, severe cough, or shortness of breath;
- Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, board of health, or other medical provider, or health agency, or who reside with anyone who has been asked to self-quarantine;
- Persons who have travelled to the following countries within the last fourteen (14) days:

China  
Italy  
Iran  
Japan  
South Korea

(The list may be updated as further guidance is received);

- Persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has travelled to any of the above-named countries within the last fourteen days.

**Anyone attempting to enter in violation of this order will be denied entry by security.**

If you have a scheduled appearance or appointment at a state courthouse or other state court facility and you fall into any of the above-listed categories, you should proceed as follows:

- If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney;
- If you have no attorney and are seeking emergency relief, please call the Clerk's Office for the court where you would seek relief;
- If you are an attorney and you are scheduled to appear before a judge, please contact that session directly by telephone;
- If you are scheduled to meet with a probation officer, please contact the probation officer or applicable probation office directly by telephone;
- If you are a juror sitting on an ongoing trial or grand jury, please call the telephone number that you were provided with when you were seated on the jury;
- If in doubt as to whom you should contact, please call the Clerk's Office for the particular court in which you were scheduled to appear.

These restrictions are temporary, but will remain in place until it is determined to be safe to remove them.

People who think they may have been exposed to coronavirus are urged to contact a healthcare provider immediately.

RALPH D. GANTS )  
 ) Chief Justice  
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BARBARA A. LENK )  
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 )  
FRANK M. GAZIANO ) Justices  
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 )  
DAVID A. LOWY )  
 )  
 )  
KIMBERLY S. BUDD )  
 )  
 )

ELSPETH B. CYPHER )  
 )  
 )  
SCOTT L. KAFKER )

March 13, 2020