

Corey R. Steel
State Court Administrator



Deborah A. Minardi
State Probation Administrator

TO: Providers
FROM: Deb Minardi
DATE: March 13, 2020
RE: Coronavirus Information

Yesterday Chief Justice Heavican issued an Administrative Order directing that Court and Probation operations not be limited. Courts and Probation Offices are developing emergency preparedness plans in order to carry out our mission essential operations, including community safety. The health and safety of those we serve, our staff, and our community/provider partners are a top concern.

In addition to investigation and supervision duties, provider facilities, placements, and services are core to our probation responsibilities. We certainly understand the need to implement additional strategies to prevent or mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses, but ask that you make decisions based on guidance from the Center for Disease Control & Prevention and the World Health Organization as well as state and local health departments. This situation is very fluid and we are asking you to continue to work with us to provide essential programming and services for court involved individuals.

Please communicate, in writing to Julie Scott at julie.scott@nebraska.gov, any significant restrictions you must employ that will impact our probation population. We certainly want to partner in helping to relay necessary information to those we serve and their families. These things may include heightened visitation procedures/restrictions, enhanced medical screenings, sanitation strategies, alternative methods of service, and if necessary quarantine procedures. Given the number of school closures, employment modifications and community event cancellations having access to a robust continuum of services is more important than ever for the Courts and Probation.

Probation will continue "business as usual" and any alternative strategies that have been employed at a local level will also be communicated with you. This situation is evolving and may change as new information becomes available. Again, we appreciate your partnership and communication and look forward to working together to get through this uncertain time. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

DM/jb