

AOPC Update for Lawyers Participating in Court Functions

The following statement has been issued by H. Geoffrey Moulton Jr., court administrator, Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts:

"In the view of AOPC, restricted access to law offices and facilities by legal professionals, staff, and clients is permitted to the degree necessary to allow attorneys to participate in court functions deemed essential by a President Judge per the Supreme Court's order of March 18, 2020, so long as social distancing and other mitigation measures are employed for the protection of lawyers, staff, and clients. Pursuant to the Governor's order, all other business must be conducted remotely; necessary retrieval of files or other materials should be accomplished expeditiously."

In addition, Pennsylvania Bar Association President Anne N. John issued the following statement:

Dear Member,

As we all struggle to find our footing during this devastating pandemic, I write to reassure you that your association is continuing to look out for your interests.

First and foremost, we are concerned and taking all necessary steps to provide for the health, safety and well-being of our members, employees and the community at large. To that end, we are complying with all state and federal mandates and recommendations to protect each other.

Please know that the PBA has reached out to obtain guidance and relief for the maintenance of our legal obligations to our clients and the community.

We will update you as we receive information and guidance. Your PBA remains open by remote operation; we continue to serve you during this unprecedented crisis.

We will navigate these uncharted waters together, and we will weather this storm. Stay well and take care.

Best regards,
Anne N. John, President

The Berks County Bar Association has been working with the Pennsylvania Bar Association throughout the day Friday to get further clarification about the Governor's mandate that all "non-life sustaining" businesses shut down, including those providing legal services.

Any business that would like to seek a **waiver** can email RA-dcexemption@pa.gov. Businesses with questions about whether they need to close can contact the Governor's administration by emailing ra-dcedcs@pa.gov.