

SUPREME COURT

Chief Justice Loretta H. Rush
Indiana Supreme Court
311 State House
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2732



OF INDIANA

May 13, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Today, the Indiana Supreme Court issued two important orders related to procedures in your courts—both for now and going forward as we continue to expand operations. We also posted [guidance from the Resuming Court Operations Task Force](#). These guidelines represent the thoughtful work of a team of trial court judges led by Judge Vicki Carmichael. We extend our tremendous appreciation to them for this heavy lift.

The [first order addresses the use of technology to facilitate remote proceedings](#) in your courts. Such proceedings have become a way of life in the past several months—and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future. Our existing Administrative Rule 14 framework was insufficient. This order gives you greater discretion in employing technology to protect courtroom participants, preserve critical constitutional rights, and efficiently address caseloads.

Our Office of Court Technology is working to develop a platform to provide public access to remote proceedings—a necessary requirement to fulfill the Open Courts Clause of the Indiana Constitution. The goal is to make managing public access to remote proceedings easier, as well as make it easier for the public to find and view proceedings. Please look for updates on this project in the weeks ahead.

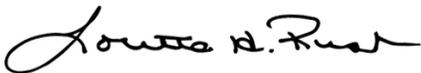
The [second order addresses expanding courtroom operations](#) over the next weeks and months. It extends deadlines as suggested by our Resuming Court Operations Task Force and includes the procedure for filing your transition plans and the substantive elements the plans should address. These plans will be your roadmap to safe, responsible court operations and must reflect collaborative efforts with your county governments and justice system partners. We will develop a template for your updated AR 17 transition plans and will post it soon.

Finally, we recognize that securing PPE is a critical issue and that many of you have acquired PPE independently or through your county partners. We have posted a [list of PPE vendors on our COVID-19 website](#) and will update it as we identify additional vendors. To help us identify the statewide need, please [complete the survey](#) that was sent in our Wednesday email.

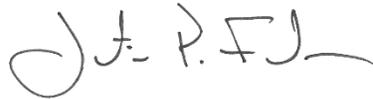
Importantly, primary funding for PPE will be through the CARES Act funds being made available to counties. Please contact your county government to ensure your courts have access to this funding. We anticipate providing Supreme Court funding as a backstop to CARES funding, and information on how to apply for Court funding will be available on our [COVID-19 website](#) soon.

Your Indiana Supreme Court could not be prouder of your hard work and resilience during these times. Please know that we continue to stand with you and will provide you with all possible assistance.

Sincerely,



Chief Justice Loretta H. Rush



Justin P. Forkner
Chief Administrative Officer