

SUPREME COURT

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



OF INDIANA

April 3, 2020

Dear Judges:

Today you received [a letter signed by the leaders of all three branches](#) of our state government, applauding the efforts of county criminal justice and health partners who are taking responsible looks at their jail and detention facility populations. These efforts merit such unified praise because it will save lives.

To further support those efforts, today the Supreme Court issued [an order extending your emergency procedures](#) through May 4, 2020, and expressly authorizing and encouraging you to work with your local stakeholders to review current facility populations—with the goal of determining whether anyone can be safely released under appropriate conditions.

Those partners who have already done this, we ask you and your local stakeholders to take a second look. To those who have not undertaken these efforts, we urge you to do so now. Reach out to [Chief Administrative Officer Justin Forkner](#), who will put you in contact with staff and your colleagues who can assist.

The Supreme Court has convened state-level partners—including public defenders, prosecutors, sheriffs, and health experts—who will help formulate reasonable parameters for your consideration. That guidance will be disseminated as quickly as possible.

As judges, you are the only ones in your counties who can authorize these critical decisions. I am calling upon you to use your convening power as judicial officers to engage your county leaders in these conversations. During this unprecedented public health crisis, your community is looking to you to lead now more than ever. I have full faith in your readiness to do so and could not be prouder to serve with you.

With highest respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loretta H. Rush".

Chief Justice Loretta H. Rush