



Original Resolution 2 - 2021

In Support of Court Personnel During Pandemics and other Emergencies

WHEREAS, during pandemics and other emergencies, courts must remain operational and provide services to the greatest extent feasible to ensure access to justice; and

WHEREAS, functioning courts during emergencies build public confidence in the stability of government; and

WHEREAS, from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, judicial personnel throughout the country, like other frontline staff, reported to work in person, even before the existence or availability of vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, judicial personnel are both a valuable and vulnerable court resource, and the health and safety of judicial personnel is of paramount importance to courts; and

WHEREAS, coordination with executive branch agencies is necessary to protect the health and safety of judicial personnel when they serve the public as frontline staff by ensuring such personnel have prompt and timely access to vaccines and personal protective equipment; and

WHEREAS, it is important for courts to be recognized as essential during emergencies and to be included in making strategic decisions that have an impact on the health and safety of judicial personnel;

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency's Advisory Memorandum on Ensuring Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers' Ability to Work During the COVID-19 Response, dated August 10, 2021, identifies workers supporting the operations of the judicial system, including judges, as essential critical infrastructure workers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for Court Management encourages court leadership in every jurisdiction and the National Center for State Courts to:

- Take all steps necessary to protect the physical and mental health and safety of judicial personnel during pandemics and other emergencies while keeping courts open to the greatest extent possible; and
- Coordinate with executive and legislative branch agencies to ensure that judicial personnel are recognized and treated as frontline responders, allowing reasonable and timely access to vaccines and personal protective equipment; and
- Engage with high-level counterparts from the executive branch to ensure



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participation in strategic emergency management decisions in order to communicate emergency management needs specific to court operations and educate counterparts on the importance of access to justice during emergencies; and

- Advocate for federal and state emergency relief to be earmarked for state, local, and municipal courts to ensure that judicial personnel are protected as frontline responders and that courthouse and judicial facilities provide a safe environment for the public and judicial personnel.