

**From:** [Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor](#)  
**Subject:** COVID Resources  
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Dear Judge,

As we head into the holiday season, I've taken a moment to reflect on 2020 – what a year it has been - a year of unexpected challenges like no other. I've mentioned before that I am extremely proud of how the Ohio judiciary has responded and worked together to find solutions to maintain access to justice during the pandemic. I'm thankful for each of you and for your dedication to your courts and to your communities.

With information changing daily, I thought it might be helpful to recap for you, a number of resources that may assist you as you continue to address the challenges of 2020.

I'm sure you remember that back in March, the Supreme Court created a webpage dedicated to COVID resources: <https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/coronavirus>.

In addition to providing general resources, our staff collects orders from local courts and catalogs them on the Ohio Court Response page: <https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/coronavirus/courts>. The staff works diligently to update the information found on this page. Please take a moment to review the information that has been collected from your court. If it is not current, please send updated orders, via email, to [LocalCourts@sc.ohio.gov](mailto:LocalCourts@sc.ohio.gov).

Our staff have also worked very hard to provide you with timely education on a wide variety of pandemic-related topics. There are a number of these recorded webinars on the Judicial College's [webpage](#) – you just have to log into your OhioCourtEdu account to access the webinars, free of charge.

Given the length of this pandemic, there may still be some courts in need of assistance with remote technology, sanitizing, cleaning, or other costs associated with the pandemic. The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services continues to accept grant applications. You may apply for funding by following this link: <https://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/links/FY-2020-CESF-RFP-FINAL.pdf>. These funds are retroactive to March 1, 2020 and don't require a monetary match. I encourage you to take advantage of this funding stream, if need be.

Lastly, while the Supreme Court has been providing Ohio's local courts with support throughout the pandemic, the National Center for State Courts is also a rich resource for judges. You can access the NCSC's Coronavirus and the Courts site here: <https://www.ncsc.org/newsroom/public-health-emergency>.

I hope you will find all of this information useful. And as always, please let me know if there is any other assistance we can provide.

I hope you, your families, and your staff all have a safe and healthy holiday season.

God Bless.

Sincerely,



Maureen O'Connor  
Chief Justice