

To: All Iowans
From: Iowa Judicial Branch
Re: Judicial Branch Operations Summary
Date: May 4, 2020

The Iowa Supreme Court did not file any supervisory orders this week. The court is beginning the planning process to resume court services in June.

Reference Materials:

[Supreme Court Supervisory Order, April 27, 2020](#)
[Information on the COVID-19 Iowa Legal Information Hotline](#)
[Supreme Court Supervisory Order, April 17, 2020](#)
[Supreme Court Supervisory Order, April 6, 2020](#)
[Supreme Court Supervisory Order, April 2, 2020](#)

Summary:

Clerk of Court Offices: Clerk's offices will continue with their current policies regarding public access and staffing. If you need to access the clerk's office for emergency and essential matters, please call the clerk of court's office first so that you are provided with procedures that are in place. Phone numbers are listed in the [Clerk of Court phone directory](#) on the judicial branch website. Do not visit the clerk's office or the courthouse in person if you are feeling ill or if you are subject to a quarantine.

Garnishments: Clerks of Court have received the following guidance related to the Governor's April 24th proclamation on garnishments:

- 1) Until further notice, if someone attempts to file a praecipe (Request for General Execution), simply reject it and refer the filer to the Governor's Proclamation of April 24, section 28.
- 2) If someone attempted to file a praecipe on April 24, reject it, refer the filer to the proclamation, and refund their filing fee.
- 3) Your sheriffs may ask you questions about their ability to collect on executions that were issued before April 24. Employers may ask you questions about whether or not they should garnish wages for executions that were issued before April 24. Those questions would require you to give legal advice, so refer your sheriff to his/her county attorney, and the employers to their own legal counsel.
- 4) Sheriffs will be returning their Return(s) of Service of General Execution as usual -- meaning their Returns will be coming in after April

24. Just go ahead and process the returns as usual. Any concerns about the funds that were collected may be raised by the court or the parties as they deem necessary.

Please feel free to share any concerns or questions you may have with Anna Stoeffler (anna.stoeffler@iowacourts.gov), Chief Justice Christensen's Senior Law Clerk. Ms. Stoeffler is regularly reviewing these communications and assembling and forwarding information to the Chief Justice.

The Iowa Judicial Branch sincerely appreciates the professionalism and patience from attorneys, law enforcement, county attorneys, public defenders and all Iowans who access the courts in their communities.