

OFFICE OF LAWYERS PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Notice #2

FROM: Susan M. Humiston, Director

DATE: March 23, 2020

RE: Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility & COVID-19

The Office continues to be “open” for business but will be closed to in-person visits until further notice. Our staff will be working remotely to the extent possible, and the work of the Office will proceed with adjustments to facilitate this remote working. All doing business with the Office should note the following:

- Complaints can be submitted on line or through the mail as usual. If you have documents you would like to submit with your online complaint, please mail them to the Office.
- If you would like to submit information electronically to the Office, either with your initial complaint or otherwise, you may do so at lpkada@courts.state.mn.us.
- If you would like to drop off documents at the Office, a drop box has been established for you to do so, but you will not be able to meet in person with staff. To speak with OLPR personnel, please call the Office, and arrangements will be made for a return call.
- If you are working with an individual attorney in the Office on a complaint that was previously submitted, please email them directly. A directory of attorneys and their emails can be found on the website.
- Investigations being conducted by the District Ethics Committees will only be conducted by telephone, email or mail. Delays in investigations are likely inevitable during this time. If you encounter delays in conducting your assigned investigation, just keep your DEC Chair and OLPR liaison posted. Chair and DEC liaison contact information can be found on the DEC sharepoint site.

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- If possible, please submit completed investigation files and reports electronically by uploading to the sharepoint site or via email to Casey Brown.
- Lawyers Board panel proceedings will proceed as usual to the extent they do not involve evidentiary hearings or other need to meet in-person. No panel evidentiary hearings will be scheduled through April 22, 2020. The Office continues to explore options for remote evidentiary hearings for any hearing that may be scheduled after April 22, 2020.
- Referee proceedings and trials are proceeding as directed by the Referee assigned to the matter.
- Oral arguments are proceeding as directed by the Supreme Court.
- All public matter timelines and filing deadlines remain in effect unless further modified by the Court.
- The Advisory Opinion service will continue as usual with potential call-back delays as inquiries are routed to attorneys working remotely.

This is a dynamic situation, and information is subject to change on short notice. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this challenging time. If you have questions, please call 651-296-3952.

jmc