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BECKY LEWALLEN
CO. & PROBATE CLERK
WASHINGTON CO. AR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

EXECUTIVE ORDER EXTENDING PAID LEAVE TO COUNTY EMPLOYEES UNABLE TO WORK DUE TO EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 OR OTHER REASONS RELATED DIRECTLY THERETO.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-02

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, Governor Asa Hutchinson declared a public health emergency in the State of Arkansas due to the rising numbers of positive cases of the COVID-19 virus in the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency due to the rising numbers of positive cases of the COVID-19 virus in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, I, as Washington County Judge, and pursuant to A.C.A. § 12-75-108, declared a public health emergency due the rising numbers of persons testing positive for the COVID-19 virus; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Asa Hutchinson announced a mandatory closure of all public schools in Arkansas, beginning March 17, 2020, to help alleviate the public concern and the spread of the COVID-19 virus;

WHEREAS, the Executive and Judicial Branches of County Government are best suited to determine the essential needs of their office and to allow non-essential personnel to work from home or remain at home during this time of crisis; and,

WHEREAS, County employees should not be forced to use accrued sick, vacation, or comp time while remaining home due to being ordered into quarantine because of testing positive for, or for observation in connection with, COVID-19, in Washington County; or, to stay home to care of their children that are not able to attend school at this time.

NOW, therefore, by the authority vested in me by Amendment 55 of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas and Arkansas Code Annotated §12-75-108, I hereby suspend the employee

attendance policy of Washington County to allow each member of the Executive Branch to determine the leave policy for employees in his or her office to combat this growing pandemic.

Section 1. Each elected Executive and Judicial office holder of Washington County is hereby authorized to approve paid leave for any employee absence during this time without the use of accrued time off. Said paid leave shall be available to employees who meet the following criteria:

1. The employee is unable to work from home; and,
2. There is a mandated quarantine by federal, state, or local government where the employee lives or works; or,
3. The employee has been ordered to self-quarantine at home or medical facility by a health care provider, or by the Arkansas Department of Health, or is under an Order of quarantine by the Arkansas Department of Health, and the quarantine is related to the employee's possible exposure to COVID-19; or,
4. The employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and is seeking medical diagnosis; or,
5. An elected official sends an employee home due to fever, or other objective concerns about possible exposure; however, the elected official may use their discretion to identify an employee subject to quarantine based on identified risk factors as explained by the CDC, or based on fact specific information related to travel locations, or high-risk transmission settings, or personal contact with a person infected with COVID-19; or,
6. An employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Section 2. Each elected Executive and Judicial office holder of Washington County is authorized to approve of paid time off for any employee who does not qualify under section 1 of this Order, but who have a school-aged child who is under 18 years of age and attends an elementary school or secondary school, and who has experienced a school closing or mandatory quarantine and must stay home with their child.

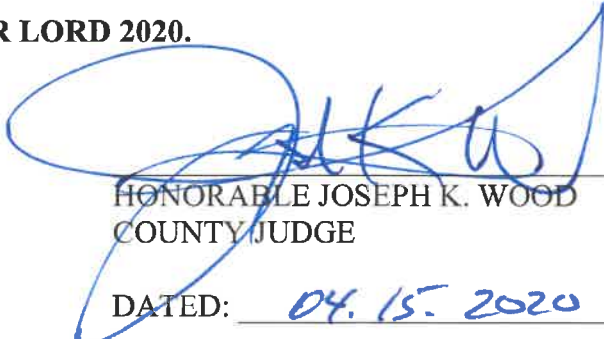
Section 3. Employees who choose to take time off during this declared public-health emergency for any reason other than those listed above, are still subject to the regular leave provisions as outlined in the County Personnel Policy.

Section 4. Each elected Executive and Judicial office holder of Washington County is authorized to place a non-essential employee “on-call” as needed whereby the employee will be paid while “on-call.” Any employee that is “on-call” must be able and willing to report to work within thirty (30) minutes’ notice if needed.

Section 5. The provision of this Order shall not exceed thirty (30) days from today’s date and will expire earlier upon entry of an Order by this office.

Section 6. Executive Order 2020-01 shall expire upon the entry of this Order.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF WASHINGTON COUNTY TO BE AFFIXED THIS 15th DAY OF APRIL, IN YEAR OF OUR LORD 2020.



HONORABLE JOSEPH K. WOOD
COUNTY JUDGE

DATED: 04.15.2020