

1. We learned today that Franklin Co. Jails have closed down ALL CONTACT VISITATION. I don't know if there are any exceptions – the signage just says “until further notice.” Although the USM is trying to work with them to get video access for the courts, it is not likely to happen anytime soon. These closures (and I anticipate more to come) will likely force us to use mail for pleas and discovery, which nobody wants to do but there may be no good alternatives available.

2. Today at the federal courthouse, the USM and IT specialist have been working on a video setup between the USM lockup and the magistrate courts. They have been testing it with Judge Deavers. Starting sometime this week, and maybe tomorrow, attorneys will go up to the USM to meet with new clients and get paperwork signed if necessary. Sitting next to the attorney in the large visitation room there will be a laptop computer with a small camera at the top of the screen, and speakers. **WHILE TALKING TO THE CLIENT WE MUST REMEMBER TO HIT THE “MUTE” BUTTON ON THE SCREEN, AS THE SOUND WILL BE ON ALL DAY IN THE COURTROOM.** Please **UNMUTE** it when you leave the visitation cell. The attorney will then go down to the duty magistrate's courtroom, where there will be a computer & speakers set up on a rolling rack (this rack will move between the magistrate courtrooms). The IA will proceed with judge & lawyers in the courtroom, defendant in the USM lockup looking at the judge on the computer screen, and the defendant will be able to hear anyone who speaks. There is a supply of all waiver forms sitting on the small table inside the visitation area, so please get all necessary waiver forms signed during that first meeting.

3. US Attorney DeVillers reiterated yesterday that he has told his lawyers (a) hold off on arrests that aren't a danger to the community (with exceptions), and (b) not to seek detention solely on flight risk.