



Franklin County Jail
1804 Opportunity Avenue
Chambersburg, PA 17201-3091
717-264-9513

William Bechtold
Warden

Michelle Weller
Deputy Warden, Inmate Services

James Sullen
Deputy Warden, Inmate Security

September 3, 2020

Mark Singer
District Court Administrator
Franklin & Fulton Counties
39th Judicial District

Dear Mr. Singer:

Recently, the Franklin County Jail was notified that the judicial emergency will be extended to the end of December.

After reviewing the state and federal regulations as well as the continued demands of the jail staff and the space, I have come to the conclusion that in order to support the continued use of video conferences for court proceedings the jail will no longer be able to carry out all of the other demands and requests for video conferencing.

In order to allow the courts to utilize video conferencing at the jail, we will no longer be able to accommodate video conferencing requests outside of the Monday and Thursday for direct court activity sessions. Effective immediately, we will not be able to accommodate lawyer client calls following courts or any other times.

We are aware that some attorneys were turned away last week from visiting inmates in quarantine status. We have since made accommodations that will allow all inmates access to the non-contact professional visiting areas. As a reminder attorneys and other professional visitors can utilize these areas Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Due to COVID concerns and restrictions, we are not allowing face to face contact visitors at this time.

I apologize for any inconvenience this causes; however, I feel it is a necessary step to implement to ensure the jail can continue to meet the obligations required of us by law.

Sincerely,

William Bechtold
Warden
Franklin County Jail