



HS Intro to Public Services

Tuesday, April 21, 2020



HS Intro to Public Services

Overall Lesson: **The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Public Services sector**

Sub lesson for Tuesday, April 21: Pre-Law Pathway - Impact of COVID-19 on criminal justice system

Learning Target:

Students will identify how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the court system and who all is affected. Students will identify how the Supreme Court is handling hearing cases and concerns of some lawyers about it.

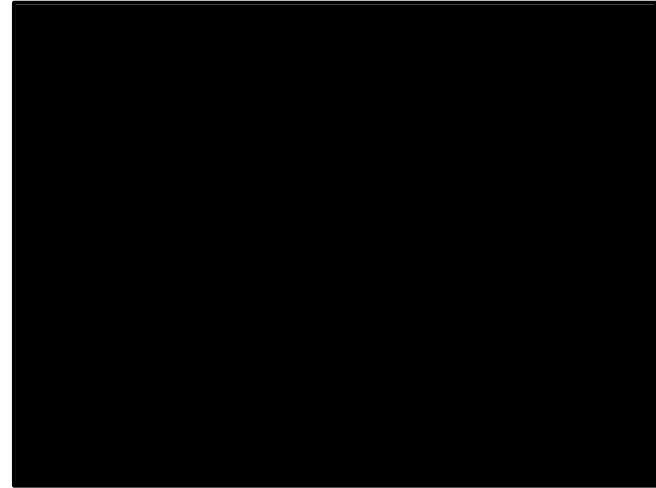


Opening Exercise

- Read [this](#) article about potential legal issues with “stay-at-home” orders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Then, consider the following questions:
 - *Do you believe the overall good (in this case, public health), override each person’s individual freedoms/liberties? Why/why not?*
 - *Do you feel like people are giving up their freedoms too easily? Why/why not?*
 - *Do you believe people should sue over the “stay-at-home” orders, and, if so, do you think they should win? Why/why not?*

Activity #1

- Watch the video included on this slide with Myles Perry, assistant prosecutor for Platte County, MO. Then, answer the following questions on a Google Doc or your own paper:
 - 1) How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected the work of his office?
 - 2) How many cases would be on a normal docket for Platte County? How many can they get through now?
 - 3) Which cases are still being charged and heard?
 - 4) How far out are cases being pushed for non-violent offenders?
 - 5) What is one of Mr. Perry's big concerns looking ahead in this pandemic?





Activity #1 - ANSWERS

- Watch the video with Myles Perry, assistant prosecutor for Platte County, MO. Then, answer the following questions on a Google Doc or your own paper:
 - 1) How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected the work of his office? *All in-person dockets are on hold; Everything being done by phone, fax, email or video conferencing*
 - 2) How many cases would be on a normal docket for Platte County? How many can they get through now? *80-90 on a normal docket; Lucky to get through 20 now*
 - 3) Which cases are still being charged and heard? *Cases of in-custody parties; Cases where person is danger to themselves or others*
 - 4) How far out are cases being pushed for non-violent offenders? *Late May or June*
 - 5) What is one of Mr. Perry's big concerns looking ahead in this pandemic? *Managing the flood of cases into the criminal justice system after the restrictions are lifted*

Activity #2

- Watch the video included on this slide with Jacob Shellabarger, prosecutor for Audrain County, MO. Then, answer the following questions on a Google Doc or your own paper:
 - 1) On a typical video docket, how many cases would his office deal with?
 - 2) In reference to the hearing Mr. Shellabarger had just had that he discusses, where were each of the parties involved located for that hearing?
 - 3) What are the examples he gives of people whose cases are not being heard right now?
 - 4) When talking about cases being continued to a later date, who does Mr. Shellabarger say can be affected besides the defendant?





Activity #2 - ANSWERS

- Watch the video with Jacob Shellabarger, prosecutor for Audrain County, MO. Then, answer the following questions on a Google Doc or your own paper:
 - 1) On a typical video docket, how many cases would his office deal with? *15-20*
 - 2) In reference to the hearing Mr. Shellabarger had just had that he discusses, where were each of the parties involved located for that hearing? *Defendant in county jail, judge in courtroom, defense attorney in his office, and prosecution in courtroom*
 - 3) What are the examples he gives of people whose cases are not being heard right now? *Traffic tickets, theft, stealing, driving while intoxicated*
 - 4) When talking about cases being continued to a later date, who does Mr. Shellabarger say can be affected besides the defendant? *The victim & law enforcement*



Activity #3

- On Monday, April 13, the Supreme Court decided, for the first time ever, to hear arguments by phone. Read [this](#) article about potential challenges, then answer the following questions on a Google Doc or your own paper.
 - 1) What's the biggest challenge this article points out for lawyers arguing via telephone?
 - 2) What symbol of the Supreme Court's "deliberate pace" does this article mention as being all over the Supreme Court building?
 - 3) What does one lawyer quoted in the article say he's learned he has to do when participating in hearings via phone?
 - 4) What are some potential logistical issues some lawyers are concerned about?



Activity #3 - ANSWERS

- On Monday, April 13, the Supreme Court decided, for the first time ever, to hear arguments by phone. Read [this](#) article about potential challenges, then answer the following questions on a Google Doc or your own paper.
 - 1) What's the biggest challenge this article points out for lawyers arguing via telephone?
Gauging the reactions of the justices
 - 2) What symbol of the Supreme Court's "deliberate pace" does this article mention as being all over the Supreme Court building? *Turtles*
 - 3) What does one lawyer quoted in the article say he's learned he has to do when participating in hearings via phone? *Listen more carefully to opposing counsel and questions from the judge*
 - 4) What are some potential logistical issues some lawyers are concerned about? *The court signalling when they're running out of time, Knowing which justice is asking a question, Communicating with other lawyers on their team, Interruptions in the form of kids and/or dogs*



Additional Resources/Perspectives

- [Missouri Judiciary Responses to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Criminal Justice System Responses to COVID-19](#)
- [Response to COVID-19 by Criminal Justice Systems](#)
 - [Prosecution & Defense](#)
 - [Courts](#)
- [Opinion: Coronavirus Shouldn't Delay Justice in California](#)