

BCBA Criminal Law Section:

We continue to work with the Department of Corrections on various issues. The following is an update from Dave Kratz, Deputy Director:

Starting Monday, April 6, the Department of Corrections will be opening up the former public visitation booths to attorneys to have a safer place to visit with their clients. The parties will be separated by glass and can speak using the visitation phones. The recording on the phones has been disabled. There are 18 visitation booths available. By limiting to 5 attorneys at a time we can more than meet the social distancing requirements. Attorneys can bring in laptops and cell phones. Unfortunately, we cannot reserve one of the 5 spots at this time but we are hoping to work by appointment in the future. We will have the visitation areas deep cleaned and sanitized regularly. In addition, we will provide a disinfectant cleaner and paper towels to sanitize the visitation booths. Hand sanitizer and wipes will be permitted to be brought in.

To start, we will be offering this service 7 days per week between the hours of 2:00PM and 4:00PM. We ask that you conclude business by 4:00PM so we can resume prison operations. Attorneys should present to the lobby before 2:00PM and request the names of those individuals they want to visit with. If you are seeing multiple clients and space permits, we will have the next offender waiting in the large multipurpose room socially distanced. If there is a need, we will be increasing these hours in the future. Please bear with us as we attempt this undertaking. It is not a perfect system by any means, and I expect some issues to arise. The pandemic has stressed the facilities and staff but we are up to the challenge. As always, attorneys are able to visit with their clients in the back of the facility 24/7 if they choose. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at dlkratz@buckscounty.org. We hope this helps to facilitate communication between you and your clients.

You are always welcome to contact us if you have any questions or issues to discuss.

Dan Keane
BCBA President

Greg Nardi
BCBA Executive Director