



KENTUCKY
REALTORS®



Bluegrass Community
Bankers Association

Kentucky's ICBA Affiliate



March 31, 2020

The Honorable Andy Beshear
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Governor Beshear,

On behalf of hundreds of businesses and thousands of employees represented by our collective trade associations who work diligently to fuel Kentucky's economic engine, we deeply appreciate the leadership you provide to the Commonwealth during these unprecedented times.

We are writing today to request your office issue guidance that would require County Clerks maintain minimal hours of operation. Kentucky citizens, title professionals, financial institutions, and automobile dealers rely on these county offices for access to the official record of all real property transactions and to record documents on sales and transactions. Title examiners, in particular, need access to the county offices and courthouse records to search the title of real property so that matters can proceed to closing and so that title interests can be transferred. Without access to these records, a real estate transaction will not close.

We now have multiple confirmed cases where county offices have restricted the ability of Kentucky citizens to have their real estate and motor vehicle transactions officially recorded and the ability of title examiners to access reliable information required for the lawful transfer or conveyance of property interests. This directly contradicts the Federal Government's CISA guidelines which include real estate, lending institutions, residential construction, and automotive transactions as essential services during this crisis.

If a limited open office is not feasible, we would recommend a requirement that these offices maintain a drive thru, curbside service, drop box, or other similar mechanism that would ensure the transaction of business without direct physical interaction, but still allow for priority to be established as these documents are filed.

While we are pursuing all available options to ensure the free flow of commerce, please know all of our groups are available and willing to be part of the team as we move through this process. Again, we greatly appreciate your continued leadership during this crisis.

Sincerely,

Kentucky Land Title Association, Kentucky Bankers Association, Kentucky Credit Union League, Kentucky Automobile Dealers Association, Kentucky Realtors, Bluegrass Community Bankers Association, Mortgage Bankers Association of Kentucky, Home Builders Association of Kentucky