

HCSD Process for Contacting Clients By Telephone
UPDATED 1/8/21

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE HCSD DOES NOT PROHIBIT ATTORNEY VISITS DURING THIS PANDEMIC. ATTORNEY VISITS DO REQUIRE A BRIEF MEDICAL SCREENING AND ATTORNEYS MUST WEAR MASKS. CLIENTS WILL HAVE MASKS ON AS WELL. BARRIER VISITS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE UNLESS SOMEONE IS IN MEDICAL ISOLATION OR AWAITING COVID-19 TESTING RESULTS. NON BARRIER VISITS ON THE HOUSING UNITS ARE AVAILBLE WITH FULL PPE.

For those attorneys who do not wish to visit their clients at our facilities we have a process in place for attorneys to contact their clients in the event that the attorney does not wish to visit a client at the facilities.

Please direct all requests to arrange to speak with your clients at Ludlow or Chicopee facilities to:

If it is for Arraignments, please email: arraignments@sdh.state.ma.us

If it is for any other reason please email: attorneycontact@sdh.state.ma.us

Please provide your client's name, D.O.B and person number if you have it. They will get back to you by email with times that you can expect a call from your clients. We have limited staff and significant operational burdens due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Please be patient. Our staff will do the best that they can in getting back to you in a timely manner.

A few important things to know to ensure the smooth operation of this process and that you will be able to maintain confidentiality with your clients:

1. If you need your client to call you at a number that is not already in our system you should send an email with your phone number and BBO number to ICS@sdh.state.ma.us . Please do not email this link unless you are fairly certain your phone number is not already registered.

2. Counselors will not be allowed to facilitate attorney phone calls from their offices. Due to security concerns, counselors are required to remain in their offices or directly outside their doors while phone calls are being made by inmates/detainees. Staff have been instructed this can NEVER happen even if requested by the inmate/detainee.
3. Please make every effort to send your emails prior to 3 p.m. so that the call times can be set up for you on the day requested. If you know you are covering arraignments on Monday morning, please try to reach your clients over the weekend if possible so as to ensure you can speak with them prior to the proceeding.
4. If you have special circumstances which you believe require a different type of arrangement than what is in place currently, please feel free to reach out. Video conferencing for attorneys and clients can be arranged under certain circumstances. Widespread video conferencing for attorneys and clients is not technologically or logistically possible at this time.
5. As you are all aware, these are challenging times for all of us, but please try to communicate by email as described above unless it is necessary to make a phone call to the staff. We are very shorthanded and our staff are trying to be as responsive as possible. If you have concerns about not being able to communicate with your clients, please contact theresa.finnegan@sdh.state.ma.us . As always, everything is changing and evolving and we will continue to keep you advised of those changes.

Thank you for your patience as we all navigate these highly unusual and difficult times.