



Marion County Re-entry Coalition

TO: Marion County Community Corrections Advisory Board Members

FROM: Marion County Reentry Coalition (MCRC)

DATE: May 4, 2020

RE: Electronic Monitoring Fees – COVID Relief

The members of the Marion County Reentry Coalition (MCRC) work across criminal justice systems, community and faith-based systems, and legislative systems to ensure that people with a history of incarceration are able to successfully re-engage with the community. This is always a challenge; but, in these times of the COVID-19 crisis, it is particularly difficult.

We know that a significant number of Marion County Community Corrections clients and/or their family members are employed earning less than \$12.00 per hour. We know that a majority of these people work in the service and hospitality industry. And we know that many of those jobs are gone. The struggles faced by these families will be felt for many months past the immediate crisis of COVID-19. Job loss, furlough, and reduced hours for people on Community Corrections electronic monitoring, or other members of their household, means individuals and families will be struggling to pay their rent/mortgage and buy food and household supplies.

For these reasons we are urging the Marion County Community Corrections Advisory Board provide financial relief to all clients who are enrolled in electronic monitoring. We understand that the fees paid by these individuals provides for a significant amount of the agency's operating budget, but it is unconscionable that we continue to place an additional burden on people who are already bearing the brunt of this crisis.

We are requesting that the fees for people on electronic monitoring be completely waived for the time period of April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. This is not a request to simply delay collection of fees, but to waive them altogether. Families are facing enough debt without burdening them with cumbersome electronic monitoring fees.

We recognize that this will have financial consequences for Marion County Community Corrections and the county as a whole. We are asking the system to step up and take care of the people we all serve.

We believe that this request merits calling a special meeting of the Advisory Board so this can be discussed and families can be provided this relief as soon as possible. If that is not possible, we look forward to this matter being on the May 14, 2020 agenda.

If you have questions, please contact Lena Hackett, facilitator for the Marion County Reentry Coalition at 317.442.7907.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trelles Evans', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Trelles Evans
Chair, MCRC Steering Committee