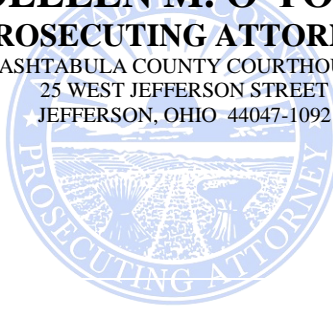


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February 3, 2022

Immediate Release

Contact – Prosecutor Colleen M. O’Toole
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**RE: Ashtabula County Prosecutors Office is ready
for any emergency, including a blizzard**

The Ashtabula County Prosecutors Office is ready to serve the citizens of Ashtabula County in any emergency, including bad weather without interruption. Prosecutor Colleen M. O’Toole has implemented a completely remote office in lieu of closure that enables higher levels of attendance at hearings and meetings, increases safety of participants and expedites dockets by avoiding continuances during times of adverse weather or other emergency.

Prosecutor O’Toole has implemented technology based procedures to allow the office to function completely remotely and virtually if the need arises. “All of our employees have laptops and have the capability to integrate with all court systems remotely to avoid interruption of service from home or any remote location. This system of remote work for emergency preparedness is integral to best practice and keeping citizens and employees safe. I prefer person-to-person in office or the courthouse, but during an emergency you can’t beat remote.” O’Toole says.

We have the capability to do remote hearings or trials if the need arises. Our reception area is also virtual in time of emergency closure.

Covid has made everyone realize more was needed and although remote work is common in the private sector, we are ahead of the game in the government sector. Remote court systems and prosecutors’ offices are an emerging trend in times of emergency such as Covid or bad weather. Being remote helps to avoid delay and promotes access to justice for our citizens which is integral to a modern sustainable efficient and effective justice system.