



Paine | Tarwater | Bickers, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

March 30, 2020

Friends:

Today, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee issued a “Safer at Home” order (Executive Order 22) as a statewide response to the coronavirus pandemic. This directive is similar to, but more robust than, the “Safer at Home” order issued in Knox County on March 23, 2020.

This measure encourages residents to stay home but does not mandate that they do so. However, the order implements the closure of all non-essential businesses and strongly suggests that individuals “limit to the greatest extent possible the frequency” with which they engage in Essential Activity or Essential Services.

As with the Knox County order, Essential Services includes those engaged in the rental housing industry. “Retail or service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences” are exempted from the order and are expressly permitted to continue operating. Nevertheless, all housing industry employees must continue observing the CDC guidelines we’ve all become familiar with. Many properties have implemented policies that limit the direct interaction between employees and residents. We encourage you to continue with these policies. In addition, employers (through their supervisors and management) shall not require or allow an employee who is known to have tested positive for COVID-19 to report or return to work until that employee has satisfied the CDC guidelines for discontinuing home isolation.

To the extent your business has not reviewed your current policies in light of previous CDC recommendations, I urge you to do so immediately. These measures set forth in Executive Order 22 go into effect at 11:59 p.m. (Central Time) on Tuesday, March 31st and last through April 14th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

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Sincerely,

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