



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office
Michigan Hall of Justice
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Thomas P. Boyd
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 26, 2021

TO: Judges, Court Administrators, Probate Registers, and Probation Officers

FROM: Thomas P. Boyd

SUBJECT: MDHHS Providing Free Naloxone

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has offered to provide free naloxone to judges, courts, and probation officers, and requested that we share the following message:

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services would like to remind you that there is free naloxone available for judges, courts, and probation officers through the [MDHHS Naloxone Portal](#). Naloxone is a non-narcotic medication that can reverse opioid overdoses if administered in time.

We recognize that the criminal justice system absorbs much of the burden of the opioid epidemic, which has continued to worsen during the COVID-19 pandemic. Opioid overdoses have increased nationally since the onset of the pandemic, and EMS responses to opioid overdoses in Michigan have increased by 33 percent, just between April and May of this year. Individuals involved in the criminal justice system are disproportionately impacted by the opioid epidemic, however, distributing naloxone to individuals under court supervision is an effective way to prevent death from an opioid overdose.

Courts and probation officers are key partners in reversing the tide of opioid overdoses. Through providing naloxone to individuals under community supervision, we can prevent death. MDHHS strongly encourages all courts to order [free naloxone](#) for distribution to any individual under supervision who has a history of opioid use. MDHHS would be happy to discuss and offer assistance to courts that may be interested in participating.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Molly Welch Marahar at welchmaraharm@michigan.gov.

A similar offer was made to problem-solving court professionals in early 2020. MDHHS is now expanding its program to all courts.

Please contact your Regional Administrator if you have questions or concerns.

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