

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

SUFFOLK, ss.

OE-144

In Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic

ORDER CONCERNING HUMANITARIAN AID BY  
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND MASS. R. PROF. C. 1.8(e)

In light of the extreme economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, the Supreme Judicial Court, pursuant to its rule-making authority, issues the following ORDER to clarify Mass. R. Prof. C. 1.8(e):

When a non-profit organization that provides free legal and other services to indigent clients has received donations or other funding to provide humanitarian aid to persons in need, such as financial assistance to pay for food, clothing, shelter, or transportation, the organization's use of such donations or other funding to provide humanitarian aid to its clients, or the clients' families, shall not be deemed a violation of Rule 1.8(e) of the Massachusetts Rules of Professional Conduct.

This ORDER shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

RALPH D. GANTS )  
 ) Chief Justice  
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BARBARA A. LENK )  
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FRANK M. GAZIANO ) Justices  
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DAVID A. LOWY )  
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KIMBERLY S. BUDD )  
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 )  
ELSPETH B. CYPHER )  
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SCOTT L. KAFKER )

Entered: June 10, 2020  
Effective: June 10, 2020