

COVID-19 infection outbreak measures in probation and mediation in Slovakia

General information

Pursuant to the decision of the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic dated 10th of March 2020, the government of the Slovak Republic declared the *extraordinary situation* (Decision of the government No. 111/2020 of 11th of March) and the partial state of emergency for the public health system (Decision of the government No. 114/2020 from 15th of March).

Probation and mediation

As the probation and mediation officers are employed by the regional courts, the presidents of the respective regional courts set the immediate measures individually. On 23rd of March 2020 minister of justice issued the central measures for the probation and mediation service, as follows:

The probation and mediation officers shall

- be present at the workplace (the courts) only if it is necessary for an assigned case
- postpone the personal presence of the clients – the meetings at the courts and inform the clients about the situation
- make sure the unscheduled or unassisted presence of the client at the court will be recorded
- refuse the order/request of the prosecutor, judge or a head of prison to carry out the habitation onsite check within the electronic monitoring preliminary examination and inform the one in charge immediately
- restrain from placing an orders for technical assistance regarding electronic monitoring via the dedicated information system application, unless it is a case of replacing of devices or another service operation in ongoing electronic supervision or a case of EM supervision, that was already imposed and should be set off
- make sure they can access the company mailbox and also the dedicated information system, if the access to this one system is permitted while in home-office regime
- postpone or cancel the mediation meetings and if necessary ask the judge/prosecutor in charge to extend the respective term.

The Prison Service

The prison service

- is ordered to restrain from request for preliminary examinations regarding conditional release of serious crimes perpetrators with obligatory EM supervision
- shall to supply the courts (probation officers) and the ministry of justice with face-masks and also with another simple personal protection equipment, if possible.