
ALLEGHENY CASUALTY

INTERNATIONAL FIDELITY

ASSOCIATED BOND

Date: March 20, 2020
To: AIA Agent
From: AIA Team
RE: **COVID-19 Update: AIA is Open for Business**

As you might already know, yesterday evening, March 19, 2020, in response to a growing concern over the spread of COVID-19, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced a “Stay at Home” Order for all Californians (“Order”). This Order was quickly followed by Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti issuing a similar Order for City of Los Angeles.

The Order states that all individuals living in California are ordered to stay at home **except** as needed to maintain continuity of operations of **critical infrastructure sectors**.

The Order defines “critical infrastructure sectors” to include the “Financial Services Sector.” The Financial Services Sector includes depository institutions, providers of investment products, **insurance companies**, other credit and financing organizations, and the **providers** of the critical financial utilities and **services that support these functions**.

AIA Surety is an insurance company falling within the exemption, and you, as our agent, also fall within the insurance company exemption. In addition, surety bail is a vital service required for functioning of the criminal justice system, ensuring the Constitutional right to pre-trial release. Certain court systems in California have also recently issued directives stating that courts will remain open for critical matters, including the setting of bail.

If other states issue similar stay at home orders, we will review them to determine whether the same analysis applies – that is, insurance is a critical infrastructure sector exempted from such stay at home orders.

Given the forgoing, we believe that you can continue to operate your bail business and provide essential bail services to your clients in the manner that you see as safe and appropriate and according to the guidance provided by the government. (For more information about California, please visit www.covid19.ca.gov.) We will continue to monitor all information issued by all state and local agencies as this situation continues to be extremely fluid and constantly changing.

Over the past week, AIA has seamlessly and successfully shifted 98% of its staff to a remote, work from home workforce. You can be rest assured that every call will continue to be answered, every report continued to be processed, every Power replacement will continue to be shipped on time, and every issue you have will be resolved. No matter how crazy things get, we will be there right by your side every step of the way.

We are confident that we will all get through this together. Your health and the health of your family are the most important things. Continue to operate your business in the safest and most responsible way possible. We are ready and available should you have any questions at all. Do not hesitate to contact our team at any time.