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Gov. Baker's COVID-19 Order No. 13 Exemption for Media Services

On March 23, 2020, Gov. Charlie Baker issued an emergency order requiring all businesses and organizations that do not provide "COVID-19 Essential Services" to close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public as of Tuesday, March 24, at noon, until Tuesday, April 7, at noon.

The order expressly provides that "Essential Services" include "workers who support radio, television, and media service, including, but not limited to front line news reporters, studio, and technicians for newsgathering and reporting."

Further, Tim Buckley, senior advisor to Gov. Baker, stated in an email to the MNPA that the administration considers the newspaper industry as essential as outlined in the order. He wrote:

"The Administration regards the printing and delivery of newspapers and the workers who perform those functions as essential."

Accordingly, individuals who perform work for newspapers, television, radio, or other media services may travel in connection with their work, and be present at work locations, without restrictions.

The individual bearing this letter performs work for a newspaper, television, radio, or other media service and is permitted to travel and to be in otherwise restricted locations in connection with that work.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Ambrogi, Esq.
Executive Director