

Sample Client Letter on Civil Immunity

Dear Client:

We know this is a vulnerable and stressful time for you, our local businesses and our community. COVID-19 has created a fluid situation and we are all dealing with a ton of unknowns and uncertainty. While we do not know when we will get back to our normal way of life and business, we want you to know that we advocated for relief for you and our state leaders have responded.

One of the keys to getting the economy restarted is properly protecting businesses from lawsuits related to COVID-19 claims. As we move forward with reopening Ohio, there are many fears and risks with the liability exposure that businesses face as they move to reopen. These fears and risks could further cripple the economic recovery. While significant economic support has been provided to businesses, civil liability protection is now the next logical step of support that is needed.

Fortunately, the Ohio House and Senate returned to Columbus this week to pass legislation to address liability protections for employers as they re-open. This legislation is now awaiting Gov. DeWine's signature. He has indicated he supports this concept and is expected to support it.

Under Ohio House Bill 606, all Ohio employers are granted qualified immunity from lawsuits alleging their action or inaction exposed someone to COVID-19. This immunity exists from the date of the governor's state of emergency order – March 9, 2020 – and ends on Sept. 30, 2021, so Ohio businesses will have immunity from these types of lawsuits for up to an 18-month period. In addition to this general immunity coverage, Ohio's health care providers will also have legal protections against litigation arising from care delivered in response to the coronavirus.

We hope this measure provides some peace of mind that you will not be faced with an onslaught of frivolous lawsuits. We are your local, trusted resource and will continue to proactively advocate for relief and communicate important issues or decisions that impact your risk management and insurance coverages.

Thank you for your relationship and business. Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,
Your Agent