



# The Family Court of the State of Delaware

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MICHAEL K. NEWELL  
CHIEF JUDGE

June 11, 2020

## **Family Court Statement of Unity**

Dear Family Court:

The Family Court of Delaware is a unified court where one court hears all cases related to parents, families, and children. Today, we, the Judges, Commissioners, and Administration, write you about our unified purpose to state that we, as individuals and collectively, are against racism. The mistreatment and murder of black and brown human beings is something that we must renounce absolutely. But we must do more than renounce it, we must begin conversations to bring about change. The recent peaceful protests across our country show in painful detail how we have failed our fellow citizens of color. Our first order of business is to acknowledge that racism still exists and that we are all committed to change.

We know that many of you are hurting, whether it is the disproportionate effects of COVID-19 on minorities, treatment by a justice system that raises a question as to fairness, or just watching the senseless taking of life so graphically displayed on social media and television.

Family Court's mission statement is "to provide equal access to justice for the families and children under its jurisdiction in a manner that is fair and efficient and that maintains the public's trust and confidence in an independent and accountable judiciary." To be true to our mission statement we must ensure that we remain independent and accountable to the people we serve but we must recognize that you, as dedicated and hardworking employees, are suffering too.

Challenges face us every day and, in this time, we have what appear to be insurmountable challenges to our health and to what we want to be as a society, a court, a state, and a country.

You will be receiving further communication about our next steps in the coming days and weeks.

The Family Court Judges, Commissioners, and Administration are committed to this challenge and change. Today is the beginning of a long overdue discussion to say we hear you, we see you, we empathize with you, and we stand with you.

Respectfully,

*/s/ Micheal K. Newell*  
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Chief Judge Michael K. Newell

*/s/ Mark D. Buckworth*  
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Judge Mark D. Buckworth

*/s/ Mardi F. Pyott*  
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Judge Mardi F. Pyott

*/s/ Arlene Minus Coppadge*  
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Judge Arlene Minus Coppadge

*/s/ Paula Ryan*  
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Judge Paula Ryan

*/s/ Jennifer B. Ranji*  
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Judge Jennifer B. Ranji

*/s/ Janell S. Ostroski*  
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Judge Janell S. Ostroski

*/s/ James G. McGiffin, Jr.*  
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Judge James G. McGiffin, Jr.

*/s/ Michael W. Arrington*  
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Judge Michael W. Arrington

*/s/ Loretta Young*  
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Commissioner Loretta Young

*/s/ DeSales Haley*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner DeSales Haley

*/s/ Kenneth M. Millman*  
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Judge Kenneth M. Millman

*/s/ Peter B. Jones*  
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Judge Peter B. Jones

*/s/ Robert B. Coonin*  
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Judge Robert B. Coonin

*/s/ Joelle P. Hitch*  
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Judge Joelle P. Hitch

*/s/ Felice G. Kerr*  
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Judge Felice G. Kerr

*/s/ Natalie J. Haskins*  
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Judge Natalie J. Haskins

*/s/ Louann Vari*  
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Judge Louann Vari

*/s/ Mary S. Much*  
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Judge Mary S. Much

*/s/ Sonja Wilson*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Sonja Wilson

*/s/ Andrew Southmayd*  
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Commissioner Andrew Southmayd

*/s/ David Jones*  
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Commissioner David Jones

/s/ Jennifer Mayo

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Commissioner Jennifer Mayo

/s/ Para Wolcott

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Commissioner Para Wolcott

/s/ Kim DeBonte

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Commissioner Kim DeBonte

/s/ Theresa A. Sedivec

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Commissioner Theresa A. Sedivec

/s/ Samantha Lukoff

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Commissioner Samantha Lukoff

/s/ S. Michelle Hoffman

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S. Michelle Hoffman,  
Court Administrator

/s/ Addie P. Asay

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Addie P. Asay, Esquire,  
Director of Legal Affairs

/s/ Lisa Greene

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Lisa Greene,  
Director of Fiscal Services

/s/ Constance Turner

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Constance Turner,  
Director of Operations for New Castle

/s/ Trina Gumbs

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Trina Gumbs,  
Director of Operations for Sussex

/s/ Melissa Kucharski

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Melissa Kucharski, Deputy Director of  
Operations for New Castle

/s/ James J. Maxwell

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Commissioner James J. Maxwell

/s/ Danielle Blount

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Commissioner Danielle Blount

/s/ Gretchen C. Gilchrist

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Commissioner Gretchen C. Gilchrist

/s/ Craig R. Fitzgerald

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Commissioner Craig R. Fitzgerald

/s/ Emily Farley

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Commissioner Emily Farley

/s/ Eleanor B. Torres

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Eleanor B. Torres, Esquire,  
Counsel to Chief Judge

/s/ Rachel DeColli

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Rachel DeColli  
Director of Case Flow Management

/s/ Andre M. Boggerty

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Andre M. Boggerty,  
Director of Human Resources

/s/ Chiara Fox-Molock

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Chiara Fox-Molock,  
Director of Operations for Kent

/s/ Martin Rosenthal

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Martin Rosenthal, Deputy Director of  
Operations for New Castle