



Supreme Court of Iowa

JUDICIAL BRANCH BUILDING
1111 E. COURT AVENUE
DES MOINES, IA 50319

April 12, 2023

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Dear Counsel:

At the request of Chief Justice Christensen, I am notifying the attorneys in cases 22–2036 (*Planned Parenthood of the Heartland v. Reynolds*) and 22–0243 (*Hedlund v. State of Iowa*) about a matter that occurred yesterday.

Yesterday there were three cases scheduled for oral arguments. One case included Governor Reynolds as a party and another case included the Iowa State Highway Patrol as a party. Immediately before oral arguments were scheduled to begin, Governor Reynolds, her security, and her staff were in the supreme court's secured, non-public office space. The Iowa State Highway Patrol provides security for Governor Reynolds and the Iowa Judicial Branch Building. Unbeknownst to the supreme court or judicial branch staff, the patrol used their Judicial Branch Building security access to enter the Judicial

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Branch Building and escort Governor Reynolds to the 4th floor in non-public elevators. Presumably they did so for a security-related reason of their own. Upon reaching the 4th floor, Governor Reynolds, the Iowa State Highway Patrol, and the governor's staff walked down the secure hallway where the justices have private offices and conference room to enter the supreme court courtroom.

Justices and supreme court staff saw the governor, patrol, and governor's staff in the hallway. Neither the justices, supreme court staff, or Judicial Branch Building security knew or gave permission for the governor or Iowa State Highway Patrol to access the supreme court's non-public office space at or about the time their case was set for oral argument. At no other time that day did the justices and court staff have contact with parties to the cases heard.

Sincerely,



Molly Kottmeyer
Counsel to the Chief Justice