



**DAVE YOST**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Administration  
Office 614-644-8901

April 1, 2020

Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.  
c/o Peter Dobelbower  
General Counsel

Via Email – PMDPMDobie@hobbylobby.com

Re: Ohio Department of Health Non-Essential Business Operations Order  
Of March 22, 2020

Dear Mr. Dobelbower,

It has come to the attention of the Ohio Attorney General's Office that Hobby Lobby is continuing to operate stores in Ohio during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Director of the Ohio Department of Health issued an order (attached) on March 22, 2020 regarding business operations in Ohio. In relevant part, the order states that non-essential business should not operate. The Director provided additional guidance as to specific types of business that meet the definition of "essential."

It does not appear that Hobby Lobby meets the criteria outlined in the Director's order. On behalf of the Department of Health, you are ordered to immediately cease and desist operations. If you do not immediately comply with the order, the Attorney General's Office may take all appropriate measures. If you believe that your business meets the terms of the Director's order, please clarify the basis for your assertion within 24 hours. Note that a violation of a director's order during a pandemic may be punished criminally as second-degree misdemeanor or enforced by civil injunction pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3701.352 and RC 3701.99(C).

Our country is facing unprecedented challenges now and we want to ensure that you are aware of the obligations placed on you by the Director's order. Please contact me by email at [jonathan.fulkerson@ohioattorneygeneral.gov](mailto:jonathan.fulkerson@ohioattorneygeneral.gov) with your reply as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

*/s/ Jonathan Fulkerson*

Deputy Attorney General

Enc. Director's Order, March 22, 2020