

## **Corona crisis: How are the administrative courts working?**

### **What are the opening times of the courts?**

The administrative courts are no longer open as often or have partly closed completely. That is why the courts ask that you phone them before you go to the courts. Please always check the website if you want to go to a court and enquire by phone before going there in person

### **Can I contact the courts by phone?**

Yes, of course. But maybe you need a person who can translate for you into German or English. If you call the court, you will need to know your file number ("Aktenzeichen" - it is written on the papers from the BAMF or the court).

### **Will my appointment with the court take place?**

The courts have postponed almost all appointments. You should have received a letter with a new appointment. If you have not received a letter, please phone the court before your appointment.

### **How can I submit documents, such as appeals, within the deadline?**

Deadlines must be met. If you receive a letter with a deadline, it is best to reply with a letter and send it by post or fax to the court. You can explain in the letter in simple words what you want, e.g. "I am appealing against the BAMF decision of 23.03.2020". Please sign the letter. Later a social worker or a lawyer can help you to write a new letter and explain everything.

### **What happens if I am in quarantine and I need to submit documents?**

Deadlines must be met even then. If you do not have anyone who can help you to write a letter to the court, then call the court and explain your situation. After calling, write down precisely what you discussed with the court. Alternatively, you can write an email to the court (please write your file number, "Aktenzeichen" in the email). Later on, it is essential that you talk to a lawyer to avoid any disadvantages.

### **What happens if I am in quarantine and I have an appointment with the court?**

Phone the court or write an email and explain your situation. Then you will be given a new appointment.