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This manual is the result of a collaboration of representatives of the District of Columbia Department of Health, the District of Columbia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the Office of the Attorney General of the District of Columbia, and the District of Columbia Courts, and a member of the District of Columbia Bar. The effort was aided by two professors from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health and a grant from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The manual is designed to serve as a guide for public health practitioners, lawyers, and judges. It will assist them in preparing for public health emergencies in the District of Columbia and evaluating public health control measures in the face of a catastrophic event such as a pandemic illness or mass radiological or chemical exposure.

Due to the nature of emerging public health issues, this area of the law will inevitably continue to change. While the statutes and principles discussed in this manual may not be definitive in the future, the intent is for this guide to assist in future research and understanding of this area of law.

Viewpoints reflected in this publication do not represent any official policy or position of the District of Columbia Courts.

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Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia