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Case No 25446

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BOBBIE R WILLIAMS
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BY _____ DEPUTY

NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT,
EAST FORK JUSTICE COURT, TAHOE JUSTICE COURT
DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF
The Ninth Judicial District
Court, East Fork Justice Court
Tahoe Justice Court's Response
to Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Administrative Order: 20-01

District Court Rule 5 and Rule 1 (a-b) of the Rules of Practice for the Ninth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada charge the duly elected Judges of the Ninth Judicial District Court with various responsibilities, such as supervising the administrative business of the district court, ensuring the quality and continuity of court services, supervising the court calendar, reassigning cases as convenience or necessity requires, assuring the court's duties are timely and orderly performed, and otherwise facilitating the business of the district court.

Rule 83 and Rule 84(b) of the Justice Court Rules of Civil Procedure of the State of Nevada charge the duly elected Justices of the Peace of Douglas County with various responsibilities, such as supervising the administrative business of their courts, ensuring the quality and continuity of their court services, supervising their court calendar, reassigning cases as convenience or necessity requires, assuring the court's duties are timely and orderly performed, and otherwise facilitating the business of the justice court.

On March 12, 2020, Governor Steve Sisolak declared a state of emergency in Nevada in response to the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). Given the severity of the risk posed to the public by COVID-19, and after consultation with the Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice Kristina Pickering, the Judges of the Douglas County Judiciary have

20-13344

determined that alterations to court procedure are necessary for the protection of the community.

During this time, the District Court, East Fork Justice Court and the Tahoe Justice Court will continue to accept filings and continue to operate managing cases within the parameters set forth in this order.

Effective March 17, 2020, all currently scheduled non-essential Court hearings are ordered to be conducted by video or telephonic means; decided on the papers; or rescheduled unless otherwise directed by a District Court Judge or Justice of the Peace.

At this time, essential case types and hearings will continue to be heard through in-person appearances, although appearance by alternative means under Nevada Supreme Court Rule Part IX is encouraged when possible. Essential case types and hearings include the following:

1. In-custody criminal sentencings, bail motions, and probation revocation hearings until arrangements can be made to hear these matters by alternative means;
2. Criminal arraignments;
3. Civil commitment cases;
4. Guardianship matters except for compliance related hearings which include annual accountings. Given the vulnerability of the guardianship populations, all protected persons shall appear by alternative means;
5. Domestic temporary or extended protection orders;
6. Juvenile delinquency matters;
7. Abuse and neglect preliminary protective hearings;
8. High-risk protective orders;
9. Civil temporary restraining orders and preliminary/permanent injunctive relief hearings.
10. Probate petitions for orders of cremation.
11. Other than jury trials, case-by-case exceptions may be ordered at the discretion of a District Court Judge or Justice of the Peace.

12. Eviction Proceedings, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office is ordered not to arrest any person on a traffic-related warrant for failure to appear or contempt of court, where bail is less than $900, or when the traffic warrant is more than 36 months old, as issued by the East Fork Justice Court or Tahoe Township Justice Court. Instead, law enforcement is ordered to issue a new citation for failure to appear or contempt of court pursuant to NRS 199.340 and direct that the defendant appear at a future date. This provision does not apply to any charges of DUI, reckless driving, battery that constitutes domestic violence, or crimes of violence.

All jury trials, civil and criminal, scheduled in District Court, East Fork Justice Court and Tahoe Justice Court for the next 30 days will be suspended and will be rescheduled as the court calendar allows. No summonsed prospective jurors are to appear. Any currently ongoing jury trial will finish.

This order shall operate to stay trial in civil cases for purposes of NRCP 41(e). The time period of any continuance entered as a result of this order shall be excluded under for purposes of calculating speedy trial under NRS 178.556(1) and NRS 174.511 as the Court finds the that ends of justice served by taking that action outweigh the interests of the parties and the public in a speedy trial. Absent further order of the Court or any individual judge, the period of exclusion shall be from March 16, 2020 through April 17, 2020. The Court may extend the period of exclusion as circumstances warrant.

Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control has advised people to take precautions and that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure. As a result, the Court Administrator is ordered to post a notice at the entrance of all court facilities advising the following people that they may not enter the court facility:

1. Persons who in the last 14 days have traveled to a country designated as a Level 3 travel health notice according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Currently those countries include: China. Iran. South Korea, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic. Denmark, Estonia, Finland. France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia. Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway,

Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City, United Kingdom and Ireland. The list is subject to change by the CDC

2. Persons who reside or have close contact with someone who has travelled to any foreign country above within the last 14 days;

3. Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency;

4. Persons who have been diagnosed with coronavirus or who has had contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has been diagnosed with CoVID-19; or

5. Persons with unexplained fever, cough or shortness of breath.

Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by the Constable.

The Court Administrator is also ordered to establish a customer service number in cooperation with the Ninth Judicial District Court, East Fork Justice Court and Tahoe Justice Court to assist all persons unable to enter the court facility because of exposure or illness.

If a person is unable to appear in court because of the restrictions above, the person may call District Court at 775-782-9820, East Fork Justice Court at 775-782-9955 or the Tahoe Justice Court at 775-586-7200 to speak to a customer service representative for assistance in rescheduling their court appearance, arranging for appearance by alternative means or provide other information based on the circumstances of the appearance.

This order shall be reviewed no later than every 30 days and shall continue until modified or rescinded by a subsequent order.

Entered this 16th day of March 2020.

KRISTINA PICKERING
Chief Justice
Nevada Supreme Court

NATHAN TOD YOUNG
District Judge
Ninth Judicial District Court

THOMAS W. GREGORY
District Judge
Ninth Judicial District Court

RICHARD GLASSON
Judge
Tahoe Justice Court

CASSANDRA JONES
Judge
East Fork Justice Court

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