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Reno Justice Court

IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF RENO TOWNSHIP
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE, STATE OF NEVADA

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-3 IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) TRANSMISSION

Pursuant to NRS 4.157(c) and JCRRT 21, the Chief Justice of the Peace of Reno Township hereby enters this Amended Administrative Order in response to the State of Emergency declared by Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak on March 12, 2020. The Emergency concerns the presence of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in our community. In order to protect the public from the possible transmission of COVID-19 within the Court, it is necessary to alter normal court operations. This Order is, therefore, intended to restrict the number of attorneys, parties, and witnesses who make in-person appearances in Reno Justice Court and to implement "social distancing" in Court operations.

On March 17, 2020, this Court entered a previous Emergency Administrative Order regarding the COVID-19 Emergency. Since that time, Governor Sisolak and Washoe County Manager Eric Brown have ordered that all State and County entities must temporarily suspend all non-essential government operations. While recognizing that the judicial branch is a separate, independent branch of government from the entities referenced above, the Court is compelled to issue this Amended Order to limit the number of individuals making in-person appearances at Reno Justice Court to only those individuals who are absolutely necessary to continue essential Court operations. Additionally, and as explained in further detail below, since the Court will be implementing procedures that may impede the public's ability to file documents in a timely manner, the Court is compelled to alter, modify and/or temporarily suspend procedures and timelines governing certain civil actions

20-13365

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, effective March 18, 2020, Reno Justice Court shall continue to accept all court filings and continue to operate while managing cases within the parameters set forth in this Order:

1. Transportation of all in-custody defendants will be suspended for 30 days unless specifically ordered by the Court.
2. In-custody arraignments, mandatory status conferences, pre-trial conferences and trials shall be conducted telephonically and/or via video conference only. If this is impossible, please contact Reno Justice Court at rjccc@washoecounty.us or 775-325-6500.
3. All non-custodial arraignments (for example, citations and criminal) currently scheduled between March 18, 2020 through April 16, 2020, will be continued for a period of 60 days Waivers of arraignments using the Court's approved forms will be accepted by email Citations may be handled by email or telephonically with the Court during this period of time upon request.
4. In-custody preliminary hearings that have not waived time requirements shall be heard telephonically and/or via video conference. If this is impossible, please contact Reno Justice Court at rjccc@washoecounty.us or 775-325-6500.
5. Out-of-custody preliminary hearings shall be continued for a period of 30 days.
6. Defendants arrested on citation offenses and/or warrants subject to release under the current pre-trial procedures will be given a return court date of 60 days.
7. Out-of-custody trials (citations and criminal) scheduled between March 18, 2020, through April 16, 2020, will be continued for a period of 60 days unless the Defendant has invoked the right to a speedy trial.
8. All civil proceedings shall be conducted telephonically and/or via video conferencing for a period of at least 30 days.

9. Out-of–custody post-adjudicatory reviews and orders to show cause shall be continued for 30 days.

10. In-custody post-adjudicatory reviews and orders to show cause shall be handled telephonically and/or via video conferencing.

11 The Court's first-floor customer-service windows shall be closed to the public, effective 12 00 p.m. on March 19, 2020. Individuals who need to file documents must do so by utilizing the Court's electronic filing system (for civil actions only) or by e-mailing an electronic copy of the document to the following e-mail addresses:

a. Civil cases: RJCefilecivil@washoecounty.us

b. Criminal cases: RJCweb@washoecounty.us

All payments for fines and fees shall be processed electronically or by telephone 775-325-6500.

12 The second-floor lobby and courtrooms located in Reno Justice Court are hereby closed to members of the general public, effective 12:00 p.m. on March 19, 2020. Admittance into court facilities is restricted to parties and attorneys who are specifically authorized to enter the Court on a case-by-case basis. Members of the public and media who wish to enter the Court must make a specific request by calling 775-325-6500. Court staff may honor such requests by providing opportunities to view Court proceedings via video streaming or similar means.

13 Effective immediately, the Court will suspend issuing defaults in all civil actions. Applications for default judgments in cases where a default has already been issued will still be processed.

14. Effective immediately, all deadlines and default provisions contained in NRS Chapter 40 concerning eviction and unlawful detainer proceedings are suspended and stayed. Accordingly, no lockout order will be granted by default for this period of suspension.

15. Effective immediately, the Court will suspend issuing orders for the examination of a judgment debtor.

16. Effective immediately, the Court will suspend the issuance of all writs of execution. Additionally, all currently issued writs of execution are hereby stayed until April 20, 2020. Any property garnished or attached on or after March 19, 2020, must be released back to the Judgment Debtor. Washoe County Constables and the Sheriff's Civil Division should follow the guidance in NRS 21.112 with respect to any property garnished or attached prior to March 19, 2020.

17. Exceptions to this order may be made on a case by case basis upon proper application to the Court in order to facilitate the ends of justice.

18. The Emergency Administrative Order issued by this Court on March 17, 2020 is hereby rescinded and superseded by the terms of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that prior to any scheduled appearance before the Reno Justice Court, parties and/or counsel on all matters shall meet and confer (preferably telephonically or electronically) in order to explore the possibility of settling matters outside of court without requiring parties, witnesses and counsel to make in-person court appearances. Such discussions shall include the possibility of entering *in absentia* pleas in criminal proceedings and remote appearances by counsel and/or witnesses.

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, Reno Justice Court Administration is ordered to post a notice at the entrance to the Court facility advising that the following people may not enter the facility:

1. Persons who in the last 14 days have travelled to a country designated a level 3 travel health notice according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

2. Persons who reside or have close contact with someone who has travelled to any foreign country on the level 3 travel notice 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 the coronavirus or who have had contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
5. Persons with unexplained high fever, cough or shortness of breath.

This Order shall be reviewed in at least thirty (30) days and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by subsequent order

DATED this 9 day of MARCH 2020.

RYAN SULLIVAN
CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
RENO JUSTICE COURT
DEPARTMENT 3