PAHRUMP JUSTICE COURT
BY

IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF PAHRUMP TOWNSHIP
2020 MAR 24 P 4: 24
COUNTY OF NYE, STATE OF NEVADA

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RECEIVED AND FILED

IN THE MATTER OF
The Pahrump Justice Court's
Response to Coronavirus Disease
(COVID-19)

AMENDED
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
2020-1

On or about March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in the United States in response to the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). On March 12, 2020, Governor Steve Sisolak declared a state of emergency in Nevada in response to the recent outbreak of COVID-1. Governor Sisolak has ordered all essential businesses and offices who continue to operate to observe proper COVID-10 prevention techniques, and for citizens to stay at home as much as possible to prevent further spread of this virus. Additionally, the Center for Disease Control has advised people to take precautions and advised that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure. In particular, the CDC is recommending that people attempt to keep physical distance between themselves and others. The CDC is recommending employers attempt to minimize exposure between employees and the public and to consider the public health and safety when scheduling group or public events. Additionally, there is recent evidence that COVID-19 may be spread by persons who are asymptomatic.

Given the severity of the risk posed to the public by COVID-19, actions taken by the Nevada Supreme Court, and the Fifth Judicial District Court (Administrative

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20-13415

Order filed March 16, 2020), Judge Kent Jasperson and Judge Lisa Chamlee of Pahrump Township Justice Court have determined that alterations to court procedure are necessary. Accordingly, at this time, to protect the safety and health of all those entering and working in the courthouse, the Court hereby orders, effective March 16, 2020:

1. In-custody transport of defendants to the Justice Court will be suspended for at least 30 days. In-custody arraignments, pretrials, sentencing hearings, and status hearings will be accommodated through telecommunication and/or video conferencing, unless otherwise ordered by the Court in any particular case.
2. All out of custody arraignments (traffic and criminal) currently scheduled between March 16, 2020 through April 16, 2020 will be continued for a period of at least 30 days.
3. Defendants arrested on traffic offenses and/or warrants subject to release under the current pretrial procedures will be given a return date of 45 days, or as soon thereafter as the Court's calendar will allow.
4. Out of custody trials (traffic and criminal) scheduled between March 16, 2020 through April 16, 2020, will be continued for a period of 45 days, or as soon thereafter as the Court's calendar will allow.
5. Any person who is arrested on a traffic violation shall be administratively released at the jail and ordered to contact the Pahrump Justice Court by telephone no sooner than May 15, 2020 to schedule a return hearing.

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6. Any person who is arrested on a bench warrant for a traffic citation shall be released on that person's own recognizance and ordered to contact the Pahrump Justice Court by telephone within 4 weeks of their release from custody to schedule a return hearing date.

7 Any out-of-custody person with an active bench warrant who contacts the Pahrump Justice Court by telephone shall have that person's warrant immediately recalled by the Court, and the person shall be given a return court date no sooner than May 15, 2020.

8. Law enforcement officers are encouraged to apply for search warrants via telephonic means until further order of this Court.

9. All initial appearance hearings pursuant to NRS 171.178, bail hearings, and in-custody formal arraignment hearings will continue to be heard, with the defendant appearing via video conference, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. The Court has made arrangements for counsel for the parties to appear via video conference on GoToMeeting to minimize physical contact, and strongly encourages counsel to appear by video.

10. With regard to all other criminal hearings, due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of above public health recommendations on witness availability, as well as counsel and court staff required to be present in the courtroom, this Court specifically finds that the ends of justice will be served by ordering continuances of all other hearing types, including preliminary hearings and trials, due to the extraordinary circumstances which currently exist. All in-custody

preliminary hearings and in-custody bench and jury trials, including those in which a defendant has invoked speedy rights, shall be continued at least 45 days, or as soon thereafter as the Court's calendar will allow.

11. All civil filings, including but not limited to small claims complaints, domestic battery protective orders, stalking/harassment protective orders, evictions, and general civil matters, shall be submitted for filing by depositing the pleadings/forms in the Pahrump Justice Court drop box. The customer service windows will not be open to assist the public in person, and all communication between the Pahrump Justice Court staff and public shall occur via telephone or electronic communications, mail, or submission of documents via drop box.

12. Blank civil forms will be available in the Pahrump Justice Court lobby for all persons who require a physical copy of a blank form.

13. The following civil case types and hearings are deemed non-essential, and shall be continued for at least 45 days, or as soon thereafter as the Court's calendar will allow:

    a. Small claims trials and motion hearings;

    b. Small claims examinations of judgment debtors;

    c. Commercial eviction proceedings;

    d. General civil trials, and motion hearings thereon.

14. All residential eviction and unlawful detainer proceedings shall be suspended for a period of at least 45 days, until otherwise ordered by this Court.

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15. Effective March 16, 2020, the Court will suspend issuing Defaults on all civil actions, and will stay any deadline for the filing of an Answer in any civil case, until otherwise by this Court.

16. The following essential civil case types and hearings will be conducted via video appearance:

a. Civil temporary or extended protection orders;

b. Unlawful towing cases;

c Objections to claims of exemption;

d. Emergency hearings regarding a landlord's willful interruption of essential utility necessary for tenant's survival.

Court staff will provide civil litigants and counsel with the information necessary to appear by video conference on GoToMeeting.com. Any party or attorney that does not have the ability to appear via video conference shall immediately contact the Court by telephone to obtain permission to appear in person.

17 To protect court personnel and the community, any individual who is not (1) a party, or (2) counsel for a party, victim, or witness in any given case shall not be permitted into either Department A or B of Pahrump Justice Court to observe proceedings.

Any individuals who require assistance should contact Pahrump Justice Court staff by telephone at **(775) 751-7050**, who will be available during the Court's regular operating hours, or by visiting the Pahrump Justice Court website: **www.pahrumpjusticecourt.com**.

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

DATED this 24th day of March 2020.

Lisa Chamlee
Justice of the Peace
Pahrump Township, Dept. A

Kent Jasperson
Justice of the Peace
Pahrump Township, Dept. B

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