

Supreme Court of Nevada
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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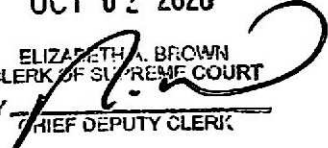
October 2, 2020

Ms. Elizabeth Brown
Clerk of the Court
Supreme Court of Nevada
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

via email only

FILED

OCT 02 2020

ELIZABETH A. BROWN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY 
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

RE: ADKT 0567

Dear Ms. Brown:

Please accept this letter as public comment to the referenced Administrative Docket regarding the Temporary Residential Summary Eviction Mediation Rules. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has a small, but important role by processing payments for the mediators and interpreters using the CARES Act funds available to the State of Nevada. As such, we offer a few suggestions for consideration by the Supreme Court Justices in finalizing the rules. We believe these suggestions will enhance our ability to pay mediators and interpreters while also recognizing the end of the CARES Act funding whether it has been exhausted or not.

Rule 9 references payments to mediators by the AOC using any invoice. Early discussions contemplated the payment of interpreters as well. Additionally, we have created an invoice and had it reviewed by the Governor's Finance Office to ensure that it contains information needed should we face an audit for the federal grant funds in the future. We offer the following suggested language changes to Rule 9:

9. Costs and payments

Mediation shall be conducted at no cost to the landlord or tenant. Mediators and interpreters shall be paid a fee established by the Access to Justice Commission and shall prepare an invoice, using the prescribed form, outlining their services and submit such invoice to the Administrative Office of the Courts for payment pursuant to the form instructions.

Rule 11 references the sunset of these temporary eviction mediation rules. Because we believe that it is possible with the two moratoria currently in place that the time for the CARES Act funding may expire before the money is fully expended, we request that the Court insert "expiration or" in Rule 11a. That section would then read:

11. Sunset of the Residential Mediation Rules

This rule is created for the purpose of allowing courts to handle a potential increased caseload due to financial hardship created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the

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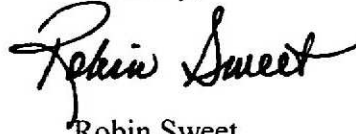
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lifting of state and/or national moratoria on certain eviction actions, and to assist and encourage landlords and tenants to resolve summary eviction actions through available rental assistance programs. This rule is effective on October 16, 2020, and, unless extended by further order of the Supreme Court upon a showing of good cause, will remain in effect until the earlier of:

- (a) The expiration or exhaustion of CARES Act funds or other funding to pay for mediators and the administration of the program; or
- (b) May 31, 2021.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments for consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Sweet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin Sweet