



# Office of the County Manager

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AKT 602


Elizabeth A. Brown  
Clerk of the Supreme Court  
201 S. Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

FILED

December 19, 2022

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Dear Honorable Supreme Court Justices,

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

On behalf of Clark County, I am writing to express my support of the Las Vegas Justice Court's Petition to Amend Part 6 of Las Vegas Justice Court Local Rules of Practice relating to Summary Evictions. Because of our communities economic conditions, the cost and difficulty of rapid rehousing, our evictions rates both pre and post pandemic, and the number of vulnerable citizens at risk of becoming homeless we support the diversion court program and the amendment to the rules needed to help the program flourish.

## Economic Conditions in Our County:

Clark County is home to 72% of Nevada's population and is the hub of Nevada's gaming/hospitality industry, which employs approximately 24% of the state's workforce. With the Covid-19 pandemic closing down vast swaths of our economy, including gaming/hospitality many families found themselves without a way to pay their bills. Throughout 2021 Nevada's unemployment rate was consistently the highest in the nation. Using federal dollars, allocated to Clark County by the Governor and Nevada State Legislature, Clark County Social Services stood up the CARES Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) which has delivered over 300 million dollars of rental assistance to landlords to keep Nevada families housed. When the Covid-19 state of emergency ended, and jobs began to return, many in our community faced rising rents.

## Vulnerable Populations:

The impact of rising rents and the specter of eviction and homelessness are always felt most acutely by the most vulnerable members of our community. Those living on fixed incomes are least able to come up with additional resources for rent, without being forced into heartbreaking decisions, balancing paying rent against buying food or medicine. Adults aged 55 and over, who may be on fixed incomes, access 31% of the services provided by Clark County Social Service.

In addition to those on fixed incomes, families living pay-check to pay-check are at high risk of eviction. It just takes one emergency or unexpected expense to turn a family that was making it every month into a family at risk of eviction and homelessness.

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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22-39948

How Diversion Court Will Make a Difference:

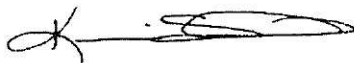
The cost of rapid rehousing is a tremendous drain on resources. Rapid rehousing is when a resident of the County receives a 24-lock out notice and has nowhere to move. The cost of that initial rapid rehousing in dollars is easy to quantify but the cost in lost property, trauma, a secondary move, and the long road to stability for that family is impossible to know because it can destabilize that family for months or even years.

Diversion court will allow Clark County Social Services to engage the most vulnerable in our community, at the earliest possible moment in an eviction proceeding, so we can assess options, create a plan to maintain housing through rental assistance or to create a plan for rehousing. In addition, it gives us an opportunity to connect the client with resources, eligibility, and community partners that might be able to make a difference for that senior, for that family.

The Las Vegas Justice Court is building diversion court around two existing Clark County rental assistance programs that target fixed income individuals facing a rent increase and tenants who have faced a onetime financial hardship causing them to miss rent. These are established programs that will make the greatest impact operating within diversion court. Diversion court allows for Clark County Social Services to deliver the right assistance, to the most vulnerable in our community at the right moment. Since April 2021, Clark County has approved 11,235 applications for rental assistance for potential eviction cases referred to Clark County Social Service from the LVJC Eviction Diversion Program.

The County is in full support of the Las Vegas Justice Court's Petition to Amend Part 6 of Las Vegas Justice Court Local Rules of Practice relating to Summary Evictions.

Sincerely,



Kevin Schiller  
County Manager, Clark County