

1 IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF MEADOW VALLEY TOWNSHIP

2 COUNTY OF LINCOLN, STATE OF NEVADA

3
4 IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER OF:
5 MEADOW VALLEY TOWNSHIP JUSTICE
6 COURT'S RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS
7 DISEASE (COVID-19)

MEADOW VALLEY TOWNSHIP
JUSTICE COURT
PIOCHE, NEVADA
FILED 4/1/2020
CASE # AO 2020-02
BY Brenda Cole
JUSTICE COURT CLERK

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-02

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10 On or about March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump declared a national emergency in
11 the United States in response to the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

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

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

1 Order filed March 17, 2020), Judge Mike D. Cowley of Meadow Valley Township Justice Court
2 has determined that alterations to court procedure are necessary. Accordingly, at this time, to
3 protect the safety and health of all those entering and working in the courthouse, the Court
4 hereby orders, effective April 7, 2020:
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- 6 1 In-custody transport of defendants to the Justice Court will be suspended until at least
7 April 30, 2020. In-custody arraignments, pretrials, sentencing hearings, and status
8 hearings will be accommodated through video conferencing, unless otherwise ordered
9 by the Court in any particular case.
- 10 2. All out of custody criminal arraignments currently scheduled between April 7, 2020
11 through April 30, 2020 will be continued until May 19, 2020.
- 12 3 All Defendants in traffic arraignments currently scheduled between April 7, 2020
13 through April 30, 2020 are responsible to contact the Court by telephone or email to
14 make arrangements for payment, community service or to reschedule their arraignment
15 date.
- 16 4. Out of custody trials (traffic and criminal) scheduled between April 7, 2020 through
17 April 30, 2020, will be set for a Status Hearing on April 28, 2020 to determine a new
18 court date as soon thereafter as the Court's calendar will allow.
- 19 5 Any entity who confirms warrants on the Meadow Valley Township Justice Court's
20 behalf, shall not confirm any misdemeanor traffic warrants (except DUI, Reckless
21 Driving or Vehicular Manslaughter) between April 7, 2020 through April 30, 2020. Any
22 individual who is detained pending the confirmation of a misdemeanor traffic warrant
23 shall be released and advised to contact the Court by telephone to make arrangements
24 for payment or an appearance date.
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- 1 6. Law enforcement officers are encouraged to apply for search warrants via telephonic
2 means until further order of this Court
- 3 7. All initial appearance hearings pursuant to NRS 171.178, bail hearings, and in-custody
4 formal arraignment hearings will continue to be heard, with the defendant appearing via
5 video conference, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. The Court has made
6 arrangements for all parties to appear by video conference on Webex to minimize
7 physical contact, and strongly encourages counsel to appear by video.
- 8 8 With regard to all other criminal hearings, due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain
9 an adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of above public health recommendations
10 on witness availability, as well as counsel and court staff required to be present in the
11 courtroom, this Court specifically finds that the ends of justice will be served by
12 ordering continuances of all other hearing types, including preliminary hearings and
13 trials, due to the extraordinary circumstances which currently exist pursuant to NRS
14 171.196(2). All in-custody preliminary hearings and in-custody bench and jury trials,
15 including those in which a defendant has invoked speedy rights, shall be set for a Status
16 Hearing on April 28, 2020 to set a new court date as soon thereafter as the Court's
17 calendar will allow.
- 18 9. All civil filings, including but not limited to small claims complaints, domestic battery
19 protective orders, stalking/harassment protective orders, and general civil matters, shall
20 be submitted for filing by depositing the pleadings/forms in the mail to the Meadow
21 Valley Justice Court or by depositing the pleadings/forms in the Lincoln County
22 Courthouse drop box. The Meadow Valley Township Justice Court will not be open to
23 assist the public in person, and all communication between the Meadow Valley
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1 Township Justice Court staff and public shall occur via telephone or electronic
2 communications, mail, or submission of documents via drop box.

3 10. Blank civil forms will be available by contacting the Meadow Valley Township Justice
4 Court by telephone or email.

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

- 7 a. Small claims trials and motion hearings;
- 8 b. Small claims examinations of judgment debtors;
- 9 c. Commercial eviction proceedings;
- 10 d. General civil trials, and motion hearings thereon.

11 12. Effective April 7, 2020, the Court will suspend issuing Defaults on all civil actions, and
12 will stay any deadline for the filing of an Answer in any civil case, until otherwise
13 ordered by this Court.

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

- 16 a. Civil temporary or extended protection orders;
- 17 b. Unlawful towing cases;
- 18 c. Objections to claims of exemption;
- 19 d. Emergency hearings regarding a landlord's willful interruption of essential
20 utility necessary for tenant's survival.

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

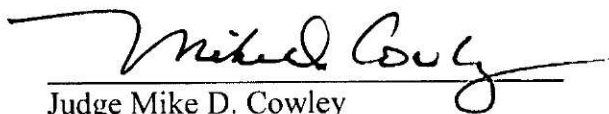
3 14 To protect court personnel and the community, any individual who is not (1) a party, or
4 (2) counsel for a party, victim, or witness in any given case shall not be permitted into
5 the Meadow Valley Township Justice Court to observe proceedings.
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7 Any individuals who require assistance should contact Meadow Valley Township Justice
8 Court staff by telephone at (775) 962-8059, who will be available during the Court's regular
9 operating hours, or by email: mvjc@lincolnnv.com.
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11 This Order shall be reviewed no later than April 30, 2020 and shall continue until
12 modified and/or rescinded by a subsequent order.
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14 IT IS SO ORDERED.
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16 Dated this 7th day of April, 2020.

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19 Judge Mike D. Cowley
20 Justice of the Peace
21 Meadow Valley Township Justice Court
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