

Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers
Re: ADKT 567
October 5, 2020

ADKT 567

FILED

OCT 05 2020

ELIZABETH A. BROWN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY *[Signature]*
Via E-Mail

Elizabeth A. Brown
Clerk of the Supreme Court
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

**Re: Circulation of Proposed Temporary Residential Summary Eviction Mediation Rules
and Order Inviting Additional Comment in ADKT 0567**

Dear Ms. Brown and Honorable Justices of the Nevada Supreme Court:

The Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers sincerely thanks you for the draft Temporary Residential Summary Eviction Mediation Rules. We believe these rules will provide valuable support and assistance to the Courts, Nevada tenants, and Nevada landlords as we all continue to navigate this crisis. We urge you to adopt these rules as proposed, and we look forward to continuing to assist our community in this area going forward.

These proposed rules show an important understanding of what our community is and will continue to be facing. The data that has been provided to the Court shows that 181,966 households or 418,523 individuals in Nevada face eviction risk by the end of December 2020. It is invaluable that the Court is willing to acknowledge and prepare for next steps. These numbers prove that without action, delays will be inevitable from the number of cases the Courts will be facing and calendaring. That is one of the many reasons we believe that adopting these rules will benefit all involved.

We thank Home Means Nevada, a state affiliated entity with expertise in facilitating statewide mediation, for being able and willing to assist the State in this moment of need. The foreclosure mediation program that originated with the Nevada Supreme Court is a testament to the importance of this mediation program. With the shifting landscape we're facing, it's an incredible asset to be able to use tried and true assistance, whose role in helping our state out of the foreclosure crisis cannot be overstated.

Another lesson we learned in the foreclosure mediation program, is that a breakdown in communication is extremely common in crisis. We are already seeing this in the tenants and landlords that are reaching out to legal service providers for help. Some landlords believe that tenants are not affected or not affected enough by Covid-19. Some proffered agreements have not been open for conversation or negotiation. We know from foreclosure mediations, that these are the exact cases that will benefit from a trained third-party mediator facilitating a resolution between two parties with unequal bargaining power. The inclusion of rental assistance and community resources will additionally benefit both the tenants and the landlords. We know that the cost to the community will be far greater if we're assisting community members who have become homeless as opposed to helping prevent families from becoming homeless.

Nevada Coalition of Legal Service Providers
Re: ADKT 567
October 5, 2020

In short, we believe the proposed rules as drafted will be incredibly effective, and we look forward to the rules being implemented. We reiterate our thanks to the Nevada Supreme Court and remain confident that they will be able to implement a thoughtful and successful program to the benefit of all involved.

NEVADA COALITION OF LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

*LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
SOUTHERN NEVADA SENIOR LAW PROGRAM
VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS OF RURAL NEVADA
WASHOE LEGAL SERVICES*



Bailey Bortolin, Esq.
Statewide Advocacy, Outreach and Policy Director
BBortolin@washoelegalservices.org