

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA**

LIMITATION OF JUSTICE COURT
OPERATIONS DURING A PUBLIC
HEALTH EMERGENCY

}
} ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
} No. 2020-038

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Arizona has issued Administrative Order No. 2020-48 addressing measures to be taken by the Judicial Branch to reduce the risk associated with the public health emergency currently facing Arizona due to the concern of the spread of COVID-19. The Administrative Order directs the presiding superior court judge of each county to determine how in-person proceedings are to be conducted in each of the county's court rooms under conditions that protect the health and safety of participants and the public.

Therefore, pursuant to Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2020-48 and Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2017-79,

IT IS ORDERED that each justice of the peace in Maricopa County, after giving notice to and conferring with the Presiding Justice of the Peace, will provide to the Presiding Judge of Superior Court, by close of business on Monday, March 23, 2020, the justice court's plan as to how it will conduct in-person court proceedings that protect health and safety, including potentially:

- (a) Limiting in-person courtroom contact as much as possible by using available technologies, including alternative means of filing, teleconferencing, video conferencing, and use of email and text messages.
- (b) Following CDC social distancing recommendations, considering the size of the court facility; requiring that courts not schedule multiple, simultaneous hearings in a number that prevents appropriate social distancing, with no scheduling of more than 10 persons at one time; and requiring all scheduled participants to notify the court of any COVID-19 symptoms or suspected exposure and to refrain from coming to the courthouse.
- (c) Limiting any required in-person proceedings to attorneys, parties, victims, witnesses, jurors, court personnel, and other necessary persons, where necessary to maintain the recommended social distancing within a court facility.
- (d) Liberally granting continuances and additional accommodations to parties, witnesses, attorneys, jurors and others with business before the courts who are at high risk of illness from COVID-19.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that for justice courts that are co-located in the same facility, one plan may be submitted for all justices of the peace located at that facility.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if a justice court's plan requires the adoption or modification of a local rule, the plan will identify the proposed adoption or modification and a request will be made accordingly to the Presiding Judge of Superior Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that prior to any justice court physically closing its doors to the public, the justice of the peace for that court will first confer with the Presiding Judge of Superior Court.

Finally, IT IS ORDERED that wedding ceremonies are prohibited from being held inside a county court facility for the duration of the Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2020-48 and during any extension of that Order. This does not preclude wedding ceremonies from being performed on the outside grounds of the building.

Dated this 19th day of March, 2020

/s/ Joseph C. Welty
Hon. Joseph C. Welty
Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: All Justices of the Peace in Maricopa County
Dave Byers, Administrative Office of the Courts
Raymond Billotte, Judicial Branch Administrator
Jim Morrow, Justice Courts Administrator
Karen Westover, Deputy Court Administrator