

**IN THE EAST MESA JUSTICE COURT  
COUNTY OF MARICOPA, STATE OF ARIZONA**

IN THE MATTER OF LIMITING COURT            )  
OPERATIONS DURING THE PUBLIC            )  
HEALTH EMERGENCY                            )

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER -  
ORDER 2020-001

Due to concern for the spread of COVID-19 in the general population, the Governor of the State of Arizona declared a statewide emergency pursuant to A.R.S. § 26-303 and in accordance with A.R.S. §26-301(15). The Arizona Supreme Court on March 16, 2020, issued Administrative Order No. 2020-47 and on March 18, 2020-48, both orders directed Arizona’s courts to conduct business in a manner that reduces the risk associated with this public health emergency.

On March 19, 2020 the Presiding Judge of the Maricopa County Superior Court issued Administrative Order 2020-038 which directs that all Justices of the Peace in the county provide the Presiding Judge of Superior Court the Justice Courts a plan as to how they will conduct in-person court proceeding that protect health and safety. Pursuant to this Order the East Mesa Justice Court presents the following:

IT IS ORDERED as follows:

All in-person courtroom contact will be limited as much as possible by using available technologies, including alternative means of filing, teleconferencing, video conferencing, and use of email and text messages.

Any in person courtroom interaction will conform to the CDC social distancing recommendations. The court will not schedule any in-person interaction in settings 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.

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.

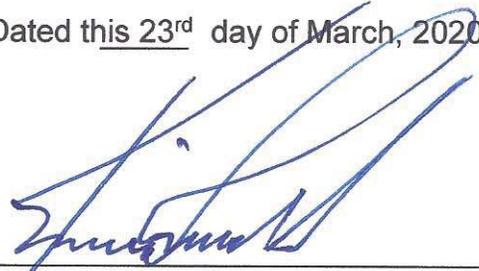
Liberal granting continuances and additional accommodations to parties, witnesses, attorneys, jurors and others with business before the courts who are at high risk of illness from COVID-19.

### Case Specific Management:

- (a) All jury trials scheduled from March 20, 2020 thru April 17, 2020 are continued and will be reset to a Status Conference to be held after April 17, 2020. Status Conference to proceed if possible by video or other electronic means. Any person who has been called for jury duty during this period is excused.
- (b) All bench trials scheduled from March 20, 2020 thru April 17, 2020 are continued and will be reset to a Status Conference to be held after April 1, 2020 and if possible to be held by video or other electronic means.
- (c) All in custody matters will proceed as quickly as reasonably possible with a video appearance for the defendant in either the East Mesa Court or the Justice Court Video Appearance Center.
- (d) Protective Order proceedings will continue with the direction that appearances are to be held by video or other electronic means where feasible until further notice.
- (e) Criminal matters scheduled for in-person appearances for March 20, 2020 thru April 17<sup>th</sup> are continued or reset to be conducted by video or other electronic means if possible and time is to be excluded.
- (f) Civil matters excluding evictions which have a current hearing date between March 20, 2020 thru April 17, 2020 are continued and will be reset and held when possible by video or other electronic means. Litigants will be allowed to hold Pretrial Conferences outside of the courthouse with appropriate restrictions.
- (g) All Evictions matters with the exception of Immediate Health and Safety Evictions from March 20, 2020 to April 2, 2020 have been continued and will be set for April 2, 2020 with appearance by the parties to be on video or other electronic means. Evictions matters set after April 2, 2020 will be set to occur on video or other electronic means for the duration of the Public Health Emergency.
- (h) Arraignments set for March 20, 2020 thru April 17, 2020 are continued and will be reset to be held by video or other electronic means.
- (i) Civil Traffic Hearings set for March 20, 2020 thru April 17, 2020 are continued and will be reset to accommodate a hearing to be held by video or other electronic means.
- (j) Small Claims Hearing set for March 20, 2020 thru April 17, 2020 are continued and will be reset to be held by video or other electronic means.
- (k) All Walk-In litigants will be encouraged to leave the courtroom and contact the court either by phone or email.
- (l) Emergency Relief proceedings will continue with the direction that appearances are to be held by video or other electronic means where feasible until further notice.

- (m) If an in-person hearing must be held during the time the Statewide Emergency is in place or any Supreme Court Administrative Orders are in place which encourage or limit in-person hearings the following general procedures will be observed:
- a. No more than 10 people in the courtroom at any one time including the judicial officer and court staff.
  - b. Appropriate social distancing will be observed per CDC recommendations.

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2020



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Keith E. Russell  
Justice of the Peace  
East Mesa Justice Court