

North Mesa Justice Court County of Maricopa, State of Arizona

IN THE MATTER OF:)
LIMITATION OF COURT)
OPERATIONS DURING)
A PUBLIC HEALTH)
EMERGENCY)
_____)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-01

The Arizona Supreme Court has issued an Administrative Order directing all Arizona Courts to take appropriate measures to reduce the number of in-person hearings being conducted in the courtroom in an effort to reduce the risk associated with the public health emergency concerning the spread of COVID-19.

The North Mesa Justice Court shares the higher court's concerns regarding the health and safety of our customers. And at the same time, shares the concern of our customers for resolving their cases with as little delay as possible.

Therefore, pursuant to the directives in Administrative Orders 2020-038, Maricopa County Superior Court and 2020-48, Arizona Supreme Court the North Mesa Justice Court is implementing changes to its normal daily operations to limit in-person courtroom contact.

Telephone Greeting – The greeting on the court's mail phone line is changed daily to provide our customers with the most current information on court operations, restrictions and alternatives to appearing in person, to include email, postal mail and telephone.

Eviction Action Hearings – Hearing time slots have been extended from two days a week to four days a week. In addition, the court will schedule no more than ten hearings per every half hour scheduling no more than twenty hearings per day.

Small Claims Hearings – No changes. The court schedules small Claim hearings once a month setting one case per every half hour for approximately three hours.

Civil Pretrial Conferences – Parties will be notified to exchange phone numbers and conduct the pretrial hearing telephonically. Included with the notice the parties will be provided with a Pretrial Conference Report which they must complete and return to the court after the telephonic hearing has been conducted.

Default Hearings – Parties will be notified to appear telephonically.

Garnishment Hearings, Oral Arguments and other civil hearings that require a personal appearance – The court will limit the number of hearings to three per every half hour.

Civil Bench Trials – No changes. The court schedules trials twice a month providing for one hour per each trial with no more than four trials per day. Exception: If parties request more time for their trial, the additional trial slot(s) will be utilized instead of double booking.

Jury Trials – Jury trials currently scheduled within the timeframe of March 18, 2020 – April 17, 2020 will be continued until after the April 17th date. Any jury trial needing to be scheduled will be done so for a date after the April 17th date.

Civil Traffic Arraignments – The court will mail notices to all defendants scheduled for an arraignment date as provided on their citation, through the end of April 2020. The notice will encourage and provide alternative methods for resolving their arraignment without appearing in person.

Criminal (non-DUI) Arraignments – Upon inquiry by the defendant the court will provide and encourage alternative methods for resolving their arraignment without appearing in person.

Arraignment Docket – The in-person arraignment docket will be managed so that no more than ten persons are in the courtroom at any given time. An additional ten persons can be accommodated for in a second courtroom, if needed.

Criminal Pretrial Hearings – All defendants scheduled for a criminal pretrial hearing will be provided notice and encouraged to appear telephonically.

Criminal Bench Trials – No changes. The court schedules bench trials twice a month setting one trial for every half hour for approximately three hours.

Court Suspended Activities – All non-compliance hearings, including bond forfeiture hearings. Driving license suspensions and warrants will not be issued.

Continuances – The court will liberally grant continuances for hearings, fine payments, and non-monetary sentencing orders.

Weddings – Wedding ceremonies will be conducted on the outside grounds of the court building.

In addition, the court is taking extra precautions for the health of our customers and employees by sanitizing the courtrooms, front counter, and door knobs daily. Bottles of hand sanitizer have also been placed in each courtroom and at the front counter.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2020



Kyle A. Jones, Justice of the Peace
North Mesa Justice Court