

West Mesa Justice Court
County of Maricopa, State of Arizona

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-03

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 West 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 West 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 – Except for immediate and health and safety evictions, all eviction hearings are being continued to March 30th and March 31st. Hearings will be staggered to limit contact with others.

Small Claims Hearings- All small claims hearings scheduled between March 18th and April 27th are being continued until April 28th and beyond.

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 one per every half hour.

Civil Bench Trials - All civil bench trials between March 18th and April 27th are being continued until April 28th, unless there is a significant hardship (significant amount of exhibits, multiple witnesses, etc.) This is on a case-by-case basis.

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

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 - All criminal arraignments scheduled between March 18th and April 27th are being continued until April 28th and beyond.

Arraignment Docket - All arraignments scheduled between March 18th and April 27th are being continued until April 28th and beyond.

Criminal Pretrial Hearings - All criminal pretrial hearings scheduled between March 18th and April 27th are being continued until April 28th and beyond.

Criminal Bench Trials - All bench trials between March 18th and April 27th are being continued until April 28th, unless there is a significant hardship (multiple witnesses, securing victim's appearance, etc.) This is on a case-by-case basis.

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 frontcounter.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2020

Judge Elaissia Sears
West Mesa Justice of the Peace