



# Maricopa County Justice Courts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2020

## Justice Courts Eliminate Most In-Person Proceedings

*COVID-19 Spread Prompts Additional Protections for Public, Staff*

PHOENIX – Maricopa County Justice Courts will take the precautionary step of eliminating almost all in-person proceedings beginning Tuesday, March 31, 2020. With few exceptions, all hearings and other matters will be conducted via telephone, email, video conferencing, or other technology solutions.

Tuesday's action builds upon measures previously put in place to assist in limiting the spread of COVID-19 in the community. The Justice Courts will act in accordance with Maricopa County [Superior Court Administrative Order 2020-48](#), specifying that the only court matters to take place in person through April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 will be those which are required by statute or Constitutional provision.

Orders of Protection may still be requested and issued. Those seeking such an order should enter the online portal at <https://azpoint.azcourts.gov> to fill out the paperwork. They may then call the court with their confirmation number for their next steps.

Lawsuits including civil suits and evictions may still be filed- but via email, conventional mail, fax, or on-site drop box if available. Traffic and other citations will still be processed.

Some court locations offer marriage licenses. Couples may enter the building to obtain a license, but only after calling the court to ensure availability. Any weddings officiated by a Justice of the Peace will take place outside the courthouse with a limited number of attendees. One person from the wedding party will be allowed inside the courthouse to check in before 5 p.m.

Parties to any Justice Court matter should call before attempting entry to any courthouse, and will find updated information and contacts on the Justice Courts' [web site](#) and [Facebook page](#).

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26 Justice Courts of Maricopa County are each led by an elected Justice of the Peace. Limited jurisdiction courts handle evictions, protective orders, civil and criminal traffic offenses, civil suits up to \$10,000, small claims up to \$3,500, and misdemeanor offenses such as shoplifting, writing bad checks, etc.

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<http://justicecourts.maricopa.gov>

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