

ARIZONA SUPERIOR COURT
GILA COUNTY

FILED IN RAYSON
2020 JUL 17 PM 2:42
ANITA ESCOBEDO, CLERK

BY  DEPUTY

In the Matter of:)
)
Addressing COVID-19)
)
_____)

Administrative Order
No. 2020 00007

Whereas, the Arizona Supreme Court has issued various Administrative Orders in response to COVID-19 and the current public health emergency; and

Whereas, the Gila County Superior Court has issued various local Administrative Orders to implement the direction as set forth in the Supreme Court’s Administrative Orders; and

Whereas, the purpose of this Administrative Order is to provide continuing guidance for Gila County Courts, litigants, attorneys, and the public during the current public health emergency and to implement the Supreme Court’s Administrative Orders; and

Whereas, this Administrative Order supersedes local Administrative Orders 2020-02 and 2020-03,

Therefore, the following guidance/procedures are to be implemented by the Gila County Courts,

I. GENERAL GUIDANCE

1. Court Groups shall ensure compliance with the Supreme Court’s Administrative Orders, including, but not limited to the use of face coverings by all persons in the Courthouse.
2. Court Appearances/Attendance.
 - a. Courts will limit in person hearings as much as possible while employing alternative methods of participation and/or observation through available technologies.
 - b. Courts should consider telephonic/video appearances for all non evidentiary hearings when appropriate.
 - c. When an in person hearing is scheduled, Courtroom attendance shall be limited to the litigants, attorneys, victim(s), and witnesses. Other

persons may be admitted with prior permission of the presiding Judicial Officer.

- d. In custody litigants shall appear for Court hearings via telephone/video except for sentencing, evidentiary hearings, or as may be specifically ordered by the presiding Judicial Officer.
 - e. Family/friends of litigants, members of the public, and media are permitted to observe all proceedings that are open to the public. In person attendance/observation requires prior permission from the presiding judicial officer. In civil and criminal matters, such observation may be via the Court's video live stream.
 - f. If a person is present in the Courthouse and desires to observe Court proceedings, but has not received prior permission, such person shall be directed to contact the presiding Judicial Officer's Judicial Assistant (if in the Superior Court) or Court staff (if in the Justice Court) to determine if the presiding Judicial Officer will authorize such individual's in person attendance.
3. The manner in which an individual case or hearing is handled is the ultimate responsibility of the Judicial Officer presiding over the case or hearing, complying with the Supreme Court's Administrative Orders, cognizant of health concerns, and in accordance with the guidance provided herein.
 4. Courts will set hearings at intervals to allow appropriate physical distancing and comply with gathering limitations set forth in the Supreme Court's Administrative Orders. In criminal and initial appearance settings, Courts will use best efforts to ensure that no more than three (in the Superior Court) or six (in the Justice/Magistrate Courts) out of custody defendants have matters scheduled during any fifteen minute interval unless Defendants are staged in alternative areas to allow for distancing.
 5. If limitations are placed on the physical admittance to the Courthouse/ Courtrooms or limitations are placed on in person services, all Court groups will ensure that litigants/attorneys have alternative access to Court services.
 6. Litigants and attorneys are encouraged to use alternative filing methods, including mail, email, eFiling, and designated drop boxes. If an individual desires to file in person, an appointment should be made in advance by contacting the appropriate court or office. No one appearing in person for filing shall be turned away. Following the acceptance of an in person filing (without an appointment), clerical or administrative staff may make the filer aware of the provisions of this section.

7. Court Mediation shall resume subject to the provisions of the Supreme Court's Administrative Orders and this Court's Administrative Orders. The mediator may utilize alternative mediation methods and may postpone an in person mediation when necessary to address a specific public health concern.
8. Court Administration shall work with the Courthouse security screeners to ensure that the screeners are aware of the provisions of the Supreme Court's Administrative Orders, this Court's Administrative Orders, and all other applicable health screening protocols.
9. Court actions shall be taken in accordance with applicable statutory and constitutional requirements.
10. Courts shall ensure distancing and shall limit the number of persons in the Courtroom and all public areas.
11. Court Groups shall continue to utilize split schedules for their employees.

II. SUPERIOR COURT GUIDANCE

1. *Jury Trials.* Jury Trials may be conducted in accordance with Local Administrative Order 2020-06.
2. *Grand Jury.* The 134th Gila County Grand Jury will continue to meet as needed. The Grand Jury shall continue to meet in Courtroom B to allow for proper distancing. Upon the expiration of the 134th Grand Jury, a new Grand Jury will be empaneled.
3. *Protective Orders.* The Court will continue to hear Protective Orders without change. Telephonic/video appearances may be allowed at the discretion of the presiding Judicial Officer.
4. *Opiate Court.* Opiate Court will continue. Assigned Judicial Officers shall take measures to ensure that physical distancing is maintained and may appear by video.

III. JUSTICE COURT/MUNICIPAL COURT GUIDANCE

1. *Protective Orders.* The Court will continue to hear Protective Orders without change. Telephonic/video appearances may be allowed at the discretion of the presiding Judicial Officer.
2. *Weddings.* Judges may perform weddings so long as no more that 10 persons are present and appropriate distancing is maintained.

IV. The provisions of this Administrative Order shall expire on September 30, 2020 unless extended.

V. Local Administrative Orders 2020-02 and 2020-03 are rescinded.

Dated: July 17, 2020.



Hon. Timothy Wright, Presiding Judge
Superior Court in Gila County

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies:

- The Hon. Timothy M. Wright
- The Hon. Bryan B. Chambers
- The Hon. David Wolak
- The Hon. Gary V. Scales
- The Hon. Anita Escobedo, Clerk of Court
- Mr. Jonathan Bearup, Court Administrator
- The Hon. Dorothy Little, Payson Regional Justice of the Peace
- The Hon. Jordan Reardon, Regional Justice of the Peace
- The Hon. Larry Bravo, Hayden Magistrate
- The Hon. John Perlman, Globe/Winkelman Magistrate
- Mr. Steve Lessard, Chief Probation Officer.
- Mr. Brad Beauchamp, Gila County Attorney
- Mr. Brad Soos, Chief Deputy, Gila County Attorneys'
- Ms. Tracy Heinrick, Assistant Attorney General (DCS)
- Mr. Rick Dault, Assistant Attorney General (DCS)
- Gila County Contract Counsel
- Mr. James Menlove, County Manager
- Mr. Michael O'Driscoll, Gila County Emergency Services
- Sheriff Adam Shepherd, Gila County Sheriff
- Major Matt Solberg, Jail Commander
- Arizona Administrative Office of Courts