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2020-09456 ORDER
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Requested By: YUMA CO JUSTICE COURT
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DOCUMENT TITLE

Order

Administrative Order No. 2020-02

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IN THE YUMA COUNTY JUSTICE COURTS
COUNTY OF YUMA, STATE OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of)
) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
JUDICIAL ORDER REGARDING) NO. 2020-02
RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY)
HEALTH SITUATION RELATED)
RELATED TO COVID-19)
_____)

In response to recommendations and authorizations provided by the Yuma County Superior Court, the Arizona Supreme Court and the Center for Disease Control, the Presiding Justice of the Peace of the Yuma County Justice Courts, hereby orders the Justice Court Administrator to institute the following measures to limit potential exposure of COVID-19 to both the public and court personnel.

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 2020-47 and 2020-48, issued by the Supreme Court of the State of Arizona, **IT IS ORDERED** that the period of March 18, 2020 through April 17, 2020; is excluded from calculation of time under rule provisions and statutory procedures that require court proceedings to be held within a specific period of time, including Rule 6, Rules of Civil Procedure; Rule 8, Rules of Criminal Procedure; Rules 2 and 3, Rules of Procedure in Eviction Actions. A judge, in an appropriate case, may extend this exclusion of time for good cause. Furthermore, that all in-person proceedings in all Arizona justice courts be avoided to the greatest extent possible consistent with core constitutional rights until further order of this court, limiting in-person contact as much as possible, following CDC social distancing recommendations, no longer scheduling

multiple, simultaneous hearings in a number that prevents appropriate social distancing. THEREUPON:

IT IS ORDERED that effective immediately, all currently scheduled Justice Court criminal case appearances, other than in-custody video-court appearances, out-of-custody 48-hour hearings pending long-form review and preliminary hearings, shall be continued and not rescheduled until further order of the court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that both felony and misdemeanor summons dates not be set within the next 60 days.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that citing law enforcement agencies shall schedule all initial appearance dates a minimum of 60 days from the date of citation/complaint.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all eviction actions not effecting health and safety, small claims, civil traffic hearings and civil proceedings shall be continued and not rescheduled until further order of the court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that access to the court lobby and courtrooms will be limited and only accessible by those referenced below appearing for in-custody video-court appearances, out-of-custody appearances pending both felony and misdemeanor long-form review, bond review hearings, preliminary hearings, orders of protection and injunctions against harassment, eviction actions involving health and safety and the filing of legal documents. No visitors will be allowed except for the parties to a case including: plaintiffs, defendants, victims, victim advocates, attorneys, witnesses, law enforcement, process servers, those filing

legal documents and members of the media, on official business only, until further order of the court. All other access to the court can be made by telephone, mail, email or fax. Those defendants released from custody or posting bond pending long-form review, both and misdemeanor, will be directed for an out-of-custody appearance in their respective Justice Court precinct.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that payments will no longer be accepted in the court lobby, but be made through online services, by telephone, the PayNearMe Program or by mail. Defendants will be directed to establish payment plans via telephone or email with the Judicial Assistance Unit, as directed by the court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that although traffic in court lobby areas will be restricted, no court will be closed without the consent of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all court personnel at public points of contact and court officers must follow established universal precautions regarding exposure to infectious disease during public contact.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that although the issuing of marriage licenses will continue, the officiating over public weddings within court facilities, both during and after court hours, will cease until directed otherwise by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2020.



Gregory S. Stewart, Presiding Justice of the Peace