



SUPERIOR COURT of the STATE OF ARIZONA

County of Navajo



Robert J. Higgins  
Presiding Judge

LuAnn Garbini  
Interim Court Administrator

IN RE THE MATTER OF: )  
 )  
AUTHORIZING PROCEDURES )  
FOR COURT OPERATIONS )  
DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY )  
 )  
 )  
 )

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NUMBER 2020-005

Pursuant to the States of Emergency declared by the United States, the State of Arizona and the Navajo Nation, the Arizona Supreme Court's Administration Order 2020-47 issued on March 16, 2020, and pursuant to Federal and State law associated with the present public health emergency, **THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED** the following procedures for Navajo County Superior and Justice Courts shall be implemented immediately to protect the health and safety of all participants:

1. Whenever possible all filings shall be done electronically, and inquiries of court personnel done by phone, email or text messaging.
2. Courts shall remain open, but to the degree permitted by law, all parties shall appear by phone, Polycom or other video conferencing whenever possible.
3. To maintain the recommended social distancing, only essential personnel, to include parties, attorneys, victims, victim's representatives, law enforcement and media are encouraged to attend court in person only when necessary. Large groups are discouraged from attending court at this time.
4. Judges shall be lenient during this public emergency with regard to continuances.
5. The U.S. Center for Disease Control protocols for social distancing and limiting the number of people in a courtroom should be observed. Each individual judge will decide the acceptable number of people at one time in his or her courtroom.

EXECUTED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

  
Robert J. Higgins  
Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: Hon. Robert J. Higgins, Presiding Judge,  
Hon. Ralph Hatch, Judge Division I,  
Hon. Dale P. Nielson, Judge Division III,  
Hon. Michala M. Ruechel, Judge Division IV  
Hon. Jon H. Saline, Judge Pro Tempore  
Adult & Juvenile Probation  
Justices of the Peace  
Court Administration