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FILED

DEC 02 2020

JACQUELINE BRYANT, CLERK

By:
DEPUTY CLERK

**IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE**

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER OF:

TEMPORARILY CLOSING IN-PERSON
PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-05(C)

[CLOSURE OF SJDC THROUGH JANUARY 10, 2021]

[VACATING CRIMINAL AND JURY TRIALS THROUGH JANUARY 10, 2021]

WHEREAS the Second Judicial District Court (“the SJDC”) Chief Judge has authority to make administrative decisions pertaining to the business of the court (WDCR 2(2), NRS 3.025(2)(c));

WHEREAS on March 12, 2020, Governor Steve Sisolak (“Governor Sisolak”) declared a state of emergency in Nevada in response to the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19);

WHEREAS as the result of the Declaration of Emergency for COVID-19, Governor Sisolak issued Directives governing activities in Nevada, including a stay at home order, directives limiting the number of persons who can gather, phases for reopening and transfer of phase evaluation to counties to permit reopening;

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1 WHEREAS the Declaration of Emergency for COVID-19, and all Directives issued are
2 available at: [gov.nv.gov/News/Emergency_Orders/Emergency Orders](http://gov.nv.gov/News/Emergency_Orders/Emergency_Orders) (last accessed 11/12/2020);
3 This AO is intended to be consistent with the Declaration of Emergency in Nevada and to effectuate
4 Governor Sisolak’s issued Directives resulting from the Declaration of Emergency and subsequent
5 renewals or extensions of said Directives.
6

7 WHEREAS the Chief Judge continues to enter Administrative Orders (“AO(s)”) on court
8 matters during the COVID-19 pandemic as it ensues. All AOs are available at [washoecourts.com/
9 Main/AdminOrders](http://washoecourts.com/Main/AdminOrders) (last visited 11/12/2020).
10

11 WHEREAS this AO is intended to be consistent with the May 12, 2020, Statement from the
12 National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Regarding Safe Courts and Access to Justice
13 During COVID-19 (“the NCJFCJ Statement”)¹ and AO 2020-05(A) which adopted the NCJFCJ
14 Statement’s protective guidelines.
15

16 WHEREAS this AO is also intended to be consistent with the Center for Disease Control and
17 Prevention guidelines;²

18 WHEREAS on November 10, 2020, Governor Sisolak made his “Stay at Home 2.0,”
19 announcement (“SH 2.0”); gov.nv.gov/news/Press/Press_Releases/11/10/2020 (last visited
20 11/12/2020); @GovSisolak, TWITTER (Nov. 10, 2020, 6:00 – 6:17 p.m.), [https://twitter.com/
21 GovSisolak/status/1326345073043279873](https://twitter.com/GovSisolak/status/1326345073043279873).
22

23 WHEREAS in accordance with Governor Sisolak’s SH 2.0, during this time it remains critical
24 for community members to stay at home, telework, wear masks, wash hands, among other stated
25 prevention activities, to reduce the recent increase in COVID-19 cases;
26

27 ¹ [NCJFCJ.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NCJFCJ_Statement_Regarding_Court_Safety_COVID-
28 19_Final.pdf](http://NCJFCJ.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NCJFCJ_Statement_Regarding_Court_Safety_COVID-19_Final.pdf) (last visited 10/27/2020).

² The CDC guidelines are available at cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncor/community/organizations (last visited
11/12/2020).

1 WHEREAS the SJDC recommenced jury trials on September 21, 2020. On that date, Washoe
2 County reported 1,221 active COVID-19 cases and 85.9 as the seven-day moving daily average for
3 new COVID-19 positive cases. As of November 30, 2020, Washoe County reported 9,635 active
4 cases and a seven-day moving average of 420 new cases per day. [https://gis.washoecounty.us/
5 agoIHost?id=COVID19Dashboard](https://gis.washoecounty.us/agoIHost?id=COVID19Dashboard) (last visited 11/30/2020).
6

7 WHEREAS it is critical for the SJDC to address the recent increased spread of COVID-19 by
8 taking action to restrict contact of members of the court, counsel, staff, the public and our valuable
9 community partners;
10

11 **Accordingly, and good cause appearing therefor, this Administrative Order 2020-05(C)**
12 **follows:**

13 All provisions of prior AOs shall remain in full force and effect except as specifically
14 modified or supplemented by this or other subsequent AOs.

15 By AO 2020-02(E) (issued September 14, 2020), resumption of criminal jury trials was
16 allowed, commencing September 21, 2020.

17 By AO 2020-02(D)(1) (issued November 2, 2020), the Chief Judge vacated civil jury trials
18 scheduled to begin on or before January 4, 2021.

19 By AO 2020-05(B) (issued November 13, 2020), the Chief Judge again temporarily closed the
20 SJDC, limited entrance and continued in-person scheduled proceedings, including jury trials on the
21 criminal docket, through December 7, 2020, absent extraordinary circumstances.
22

23 It remains critical for the SJDC to take appropriate measures to reduce opportunities for
24 COVID-19 to spread and numbers to increase to protect .
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1 **Accordingly, the SJDC, including the General Jurisdiction 75 Court Street facility and**
2 **the Family Division 1 S. Sierra facility, will remain temporarily closed, entrance will be limited,**
3 **and in-person scheduled proceedings, including criminal and civil trials are vacated through**
4 **January 10, 2021. The trials set in Trial Flight (TF) 5 remain as set. Trials in TF 4 vacated by**
5 **this AO shall be moved to TF 5, unless otherwise ordered by the assigned department.**

7 This SJDC court closure does not affect the portions of the 1 S. Sierra Street facility that are
8 not used by the Family Division of the SJDC, i.e. Reno Justice Court and Reno Municipal Court
9 facilities.

11 Essential staff, as determined by the Chief Judge and Court Administrator, will be allowed on
12 site and must adhere to SJDC protocols and policies regarding masks, temperature checks and all
13 preventative procedures currently in place. Other access shall only be granted in extraordinary
14 circumstances by the Chief Judge.

16 Access to the Second Judicial District Court will continue by electronic filing, telephone calls,
17 live chat via the Court's website (www.washoecourts.us), physical mail of which distribution may be
18 delayed, and audiovisual hearings conducted in accordance with the Nevada Rules Governing
19 Appearance by Audiovisual Transmission Equipment, Part IX via Zoom.us platform. Public access
20 to court proceedings is available for viewing and listening through the link on the SJDC website, on-
21 line hearings, by department (www.washoecourts.us/Online Hearings/[Department]/Click here to
22 view on Zoom.us (last visited 11/13/2020) and also by accessing Zoom.us and entering the applicable
23 meeting number.

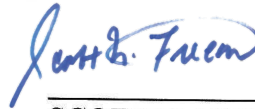
25 Protection order applications and the SJDC drop box in the lobby of 1 S. Sierra will remain
26 available and accessible during this closure.

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1 This AO shall be reviewed at appropriate intervals, as determined by the Chief Judge, based
2 on the changing circumstances relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3 IT IS SO ORDERED.

4 DATED this 2nd day of December, 2020.

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8 SCOTT N. FREEMAN
9 CHIEF JUDGE
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