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

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9 IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER OF:
10 TEMPORARILY CLOSING IN-PERSON
11 PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE
12 SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT.

13 **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-05(D)**

14 **[CLOSURE OF SJDC THROUGH FEBRUARY 7, 2021]**

15 **[VACATING CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JURY TRIALS THROUGH FEBRUARY 7, 2021]**

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

18 WHEREAS on March 12, 2020, Governor Steve Sisolak (“Governor Sisolak”) declared a
19 state of emergency in Nevada in response to the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19);
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21 WHEREAS, as the result of the Declaration of Emergency for COVID-19, Governor Sisolak
22 issued Directives governing activities in Nevada, including a stay-at-home order, directives limiting
23 the number of persons who can gather, phases for reopening and transfer of phase evaluation to
24 counties to permit reopening;

25 WHEREAS the Declaration of Emergency for COVID-19, and all Directives issued are
26 available at: gov.nv.gov/News/Emergency_Orders/Emergency Orders (last accessed 12/16/2020);

27 This AO is intended to be consistent with the Declaration of Emergency in Nevada and to effectuate
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1 Governor Sisolak's issued Directives resulting from the Declaration of Emergency and subsequent
2 renewals or extensions of said Directives;

3 WHEREAS the Chief Judge continues to enter Administrative Orders ("AO(s)") on court
4 matters during the COVID-19 pandemic as it ensues. All AOs are available at [washoecourts.com/
5 Main/AdminOrders](http://washoecourts.com/Main/AdminOrders) (last visited 12/16/2020);
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7 WHEREAS this AO is intended to be consistent with the May 12, 2020, Statement from the
8 National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Regarding Safe Courts and Access to Justice
9 During COVID-19 ("the NCJFCJ Statement")¹ and AO 2020-05(A) which adopted the NCJFCJ
10 Statement's protective guidelines;
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12 WHEREAS this AO is also intended to be consistent with the Center for Disease Control and
13 Prevention guidelines;²

14 WHEREAS on November 10, 2020, Governor Sisolak made his "Stay at Home 2.0,"
15 announcement ("SH 2.0"); gov.nv.gov/news/Press/Press_Releases/11/10/2020 (last visited
16 11/12/2020); @GovSisolak, TWITTER (Nov. 10, 2020, 6:00 – 6:17 p.m.), [https://twitter.com/
17 GovSisolak/status/1326345073043279873](https://twitter.com/GovSisolak/status/1326345073043279873);
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19 WHEREAS in accordance with Governor Sisolak's SH 2.0, during this time it remains critical
20 for community members to stay at home, telework, wear masks, wash hands, among other stated
21 prevention activities, to reduce the recent increase in COVID-19 cases;
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23 WHEREAS on November 23, 2020, Governor Sisolak entered Declaration of Emergency for
24 Directive 035 ("Directive 035") which again imposed more restrictive measures, including limiting
25 gatherings to fifty (50) persons or twenty-five percent (25%) of the listed fire code capacity;
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27 ¹ [NCJFCJ.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NCJFCJ_Statement_Regarding_Court_Safety_COVID-
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).

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

1 https://gov.nv.gov/News/Emergency_Orders/2020/2020-11-24_-_COVID19_Emergency_
2 [Declaration_Directive_035/](https://gov.nv.gov/News/Emergency_Orders/2020/2020-11-24_-_COVID19_Emergency_Declaration_Directive_035/) (last accessed 12/16/2020). Section 20 of Directive 035 provides, “This
3 Directive shall remain in effect until terminated by a subsequent Directive.” Directive 035, §20.
4 Governor Sisolak advised Directive 035 will remain in effect until at least January 15, 2021.
5 [Gov.nv.gov/News/Press/20/20201213/extendsmoratorium](https://gov.nv.gov/News/Press/20/20201213/extendsmoratorium) (“extends Statewide ‘Pause’”) (last visited
6 12/16/2021);

8 WHEREAS the SJDC recommenced jury trials on September 21, 2020. On that date, Washoe
9 County reported 1,221 active COVID-19 cases and 85.9 as the seven-day moving daily average for
10 new COVID-19 positive cases. As of November 30, 2020, Washoe County reported 9,635 active
11 cases and a seven-day moving average of 420 new cases per day. [https://gis.washoecounty.us/](https://gis.washoecounty.us/agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard)
12 [agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard](https://gis.washoecounty.us/agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard) (last visited 11/30/2020). As of December 15, 2020, Washoe
13 County reported 31,321 total cases, 13,378 active cases and a seven-day moving average of 383.6
14 new cases per day. [https://gis.washoecounty.us/](https://gis.washoecounty.us/agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard) [agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard](https://gis.washoecounty.us/agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard) (last visited
15 12/16/2020);

18 WHEREAS the Statewide “Pause” extends beyond the commencement date of Trial Flight
19 (“TF”) 5, January 11, 2021; and,

21 WHEREAS it is critical for the SJDC to address the recent increased spread of COVID-19 by
22 taking action to restrict contact among members of the SJDC, staff, counsel, parties, the public and
23 our valuable community partners.

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

26 All provisions of prior AOs shall remain in full force and effect except as specifically
27 modified or supplemented by this or other subsequent AOs.
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1 AO 2020-02(E) states, "After December 31, 2020, the Chief Judge will consider requests for a
2 date certain for a trial within a TF. A process for such requests will be addressed in a subsequent
3 AO." AO 2020-02(E), p. 8, lns. 16-17.

4 By AO 2020-05(C), the Chief Judge again temporarily closed the SJDC, limited entrance and
5 continued in-person scheduled proceedings, including jury trials on the criminal docket, through
6 January 10, 2021, absent extraordinary circumstances.

7 By AO 2020-05(C), the Chief Judge vacated criminal and civil jury trials through January 10,
8 2021.

9 It remains critical for the SJDC to take appropriate measures to reduce opportunities for
10 COVID-19 to spread and numbers to increase by restricting contact among members of the SJDC,
11 staff, counsel, parties, the public and our valuable community partners.

12 **The SJDC, including the General Jurisdiction 75 Court Street facility and the Family**
13 **Division 1 S. Sierra facility, will remain temporarily closed, entrance will be limited through**
14 **February 7, 2021. In-person scheduled proceedings, including criminal and civil trials, are**
15 **vacated through February 7, 2021.**

16 **The trials set in TF 6 [February 8, 2021] remain as set. Trials in TF 5 vacated by this**
17 **AO shall be moved to TF 6, unless otherwise ordered by the assigned department.**

18 **As the SJDC continues, through the TF model, to maximize its availability for the**
19 **maximum number of trials, no requests for trial dates certain will be entertained by the Chief**
20 **Judge until allowed by subsequent AO.**

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

1 Essential staff, as determined by the Chief Judge and Court Administrator, will be allowed on
2 site and must adhere to SJDC protocols and policies regarding masks, temperature checks and all
3 preventative procedures currently in place. Other access shall only be granted in extraordinary
4 circumstances by the Chief Judge.
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6 Access to the Second Judicial District Court will continue by electronic filing, telephone calls,
7 live chat via the Court's website (www.washoecourts.us), physical mail of which distribution may be
8 delayed, and audiovisual hearings conducted in accordance with the Nevada Rules Governing
9 Appearance by Audiovisual Transmission Equipment, Part IX via Zoom.us platform. Public access
10 to court proceedings is available for viewing and listening through the link on the SJDC website, on-
11 line hearings, by department ([www.washoecourts.us/Online Hearings/\[Department\]/Click here](http://www.washoecourts.us/OnlineHearings/[Department]/Clickhere) to
12 view on Zoom.us (last visited 11/13/2020) and also by accessing Zoom.us and entering the applicable
13 meeting number.
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15 Protection order applications and the SJDC drop box in the lobby of 1 S. Sierra will remain
16 available and accessible during this closure.
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18 This AO shall be reviewed at appropriate intervals, as determined by the Chief Judge, based
19 on the changing circumstances relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.
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21 IT IS SO ORDERED.

22 DATED this 17th day of December, 2020.
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25 SCOTT N. FREEMAN
26 CHIEF JUDGE
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