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## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MOHAVE

IN THE MATTER OF:

CONTINUED TRANSITION TO RESUMPTION OF CERTAIN OPERATIONS INCLUDING IN-PERSON HEARINGS AND JURY TRIALS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-28

Due to the concern of the spread of COVID-19 in the general population, the Governor of the State of Arizona declared a statewide public health emergency on March 11, 2020, pursuant to A.R.S. § 26-303 and in accordance with A.R.S. § 26-301(15). In addition, the Supreme Court has issued several Administrative Orders in response to the COVID-19 public health threat that limited and modified court operations to ensure justice in Arizona is administered safely. From time to time the Governor and the Supreme Court have respectively issued Executive and Administrative Orders as the circumstances warrant in light of the concern for the spread of COVID-19 in the general population. The Supreme Court has issued Administrative Order No. 2020-114 which replaces Administrative Order No. 2020-79. Administrative Order No. 2020-114 provides additional direction on the transition to resumption of certain court operations in an orderly way that prioritizes the safety of the public, judges and employees of the judiciary.

The Court's transition to resumption of various court operations must take into account the increased positive test results of individuals with COVID-19 in Mohave County. In light of the increased positive test results, the Board of Supervisors for the County of Mohave has further directed all visitors to county facilities must wear masks unless the individual advises he or she cannot wear a mask for medical reasons or for other specified reasons in its policy adopted on July 2, 2020. This Administrative Order shall provide additional specifics with respect to the continued transition to resumption of various court operations in such a manner that further prioritizes the safety of the public, judges and employees of the judiciary.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED continuing in place all of the Orders contained in local Administrative Order No. 2020-23 as issued and filed on May 22, 2020, until further order of the Court, unless specifically modified herein.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** supplementing Paragraph I of Administrative Order No. 2020-23 to protect courthouse safety as follows:

- 1. All persons attending court in-person are required to wear a mask, face covering or face shield to enter court facility or probation office. The general public is directed to bring their own mask, face covering or face shield. Should an individual indicate that he or she cannot wear a mask for medical reasons or for such other reasons as specified in the policy adopted by the Mohave County Board of Supervisors on July 2, 2020, that individual shall be required to wear a face shield to be permitted to enter the court facility. Individuals shall further be provided information with respect to appearing telephonically or remotely by Zoom as an alternative to an in-person hearing. If the individual declaring an exemption from wearing a face mask in accord with Mohave County Board of Supervisor's policy of July 2, 2020, must attend a court proceeding or to complete other court business in-person, court staff shall provide such an individual with a face shield to enter the court facility if that person has not brought their own to wear. Any person refusing to wear a mask, face-covering or face shield shall not be permitted to enter the court facility.
- 2. The Clerk is authorized to summon jurors to a court facility or an offsite location for the purposes of empaneling a jury. A Deputy Clerk shall be responsible for directing prospective jurors that are appearing in-person and not remotely by Zoom to either the designated courtroom for the trial, the jury assembly room located in the court facility, or to the offsite location. The current offsite location utilized by the Clerk at 301 E. Pine Street in Kingman has different rooms or compartments that may house, with social distancing, up to a maximum number of 76 people. Should a prospective juror be directed to an off-site location, the person shall be required to comply with all of the provisions of the Supreme Court and local Administrative Orders that would otherwise be applicable to a court facility.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** supplementing Paragraph II of Administrative Order No. 2020-23 use of technology to minimize in-person proceedings as follows:

- 1. Grand jury empanelment shall continue to be completed in-person and remotely through the Zoom application until further Order of the court. Grand jury proceedings shall continue to be completed remotely through Zoom application in addition to any in-person appearances by the grand jurors.
- 2. The Criminal Divisions are authorized to continue to conduct jury empanelment and voir dire through a combination of in-person as well as remote proceedings through Zoom or other electronic means through December 31, 2020, in light of the tremendous criminal jury trial case backlog. Criminal judges and Court IT shall continue to provide training to the criminal justice partners and stakeholders with

respect to the conduct of jury empanelment through the remote Zoom application process.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED supplementing Paragraph III of Administrative Order No. 2020-23 prioritizing case processing as follows:

- 1. Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2020-114 provides that after September 30, 2020, and not withstanding Rules 8.1(E) and 8.4(A)(4), Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Presiding Superior Court Judge may exclude additional time from individual cases or groups of cases due to trial calendar congestion or, at the request of the trial judge, due to extraordinary circumstances caused by COVID-19 public health emergency. Court Administration and the Caseflow Manager shall provide to the Presiding Superior Court Judge and the Presiding Criminal Judge an analysis or memorandum with respect to the number of criminal jury trials that are on calendar for the period of September 15, through December 31, 2020, on or before September 11, 2020. The judges assigned to the Criminal Division of the court shall further keep the Presiding Criminal Judge abreast as to the status of the conduct of criminal jury trials including the number of jury trials that are set and actually proceed, as well as how many jury trials are continued as a result of COVID-19 related issues. The Presiding Judge and the Presiding Criminal Judge in consultation with the Caseflow Manager, Court Administrator and Clerk of the Court will discern the status of the reduction of the criminal jury trial backlog. They shall further determine whether due to trial calendar congestion or other extraordinary circumstances caused by COVID-19 public health emergency Rule 8, Rules of Criminal Procedure time calculations shall continue to have time excluded beyond the March 18, 2020, through September 30, 2020, timeframe.
- 2. The Governor of the State of Arizona issued Executive Order No, 2020-48 on July 9, 2020, mandating counties to appoint on an expedited basis the Public Fiduciary to provide guardianship, conservatorship and decedent services to vulnerable adults when no other person or agency is qualified to serve. The Public Fiduciary is to assist with the admission and discharge of that vulnerable adult from a hospital or other medical care facility. In order to expedite these matters and to accommodate the Public Fiduciary and the County Attorney, said matters shall be assigned initially to the Honorable Lee F. Jantzen, with any conflict matters then being assigned to the Honorable Kenneth Gregory. If the matter shall continue as an on-going guardianship and/or conservatorship, the matter shall subsequently be reassigned in accordance with the then existing case assignment protocol.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** supplementing Paragraph IV, of Administrative Order No. 2020-23, additional measures to safely provide for jury trials and grand juries as follows:

- 1. Jury trials may be initiated in the Limited Jurisdiction Courts for criminal misdemeanor offenses provided that:
  - a. There is sufficient physical space in the courtroom to allow for social distancing;
  - b. There remains sufficient number of people in the jury pool to address the backlog of criminal felony jury trials;
  - c. The maximum number of people present for the proceeding does not exceed the thirty (30) person maximum requirement; and,
  - d. The judicial officer is authorized to rule on requests to be excused from jury service for COVID-19 related reasons.
- 2. Jury selection may be instituted in Limited Jurisdiction Courts in part remotely through the Zoom application if the Limited Jurisdiction Court has the Zoom application and the judicial officer has been trained to complete the voir dire process utilizing the Zoom application by Court IT.

DATED this 27th day of July, 2020.

Honorable Charles W. Gurtler, Jr., Presiding Judge

Mohave County Superior Court