FILED
BY:
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SUPERIOR COURT CLERK

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF RESUMPTION OF CERTAIN OPERATIONS INCLUDING IN PERSON HEARINGS AND JURY TRIALS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-44

The Arizona Supreme Court and this Court have issued various administrative orders due to the concern for the spread of COVID-19 in the general population in light of the Governor of the State of Arizona declaring a statewide public emergency on March 11, 2020 pursuant to A.R.S. § 26-303 and in accordance with A.R.S. § 26-301(15). The Supreme Court issued Administrative Order Nos. 2020-143 and 197 vesting in the Presiding Superior Court Judge the authorization to adopt or suspend any local rule or order that is needed to address the current public health emergency in cooperation with public health officials and to take any reasonable action that circumstances require to enable necessary operations of the courts within the County.

Mohave County Administrative Order No. 2020-23 was issued on May 22, 2020 and Administrative Order No. 2020-28 on July 27, 2020 providing for the resumption of certain operations including in person hearings and jury trials. Since that time there has been a tremendous increase in positive COVID-19 cases amongst the citizens of Mohave County, court staff and within the offices of the court's criminal justice partners. The Court is required to phase in court activities in a manner that protects the health and safety of all participants and court operations.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED temporarily suspending jury trials through January 31, 2021. Each month the judges will address at their respective judges' meetings as to whether the temporary suspension shall continue as further hereinafter provided, or as to whether the suspension of jury trials can be lifted. Prior to lifting the suspension the Presiding Judge shall consider the input of the judges, court leadership and the Court's IT

Department. Further consideration will be given with respect to input from the criminal justice system stakeholders. This temporary suspension does not suspend or affect any criminal jury trial that is currently proceeding, nor does it affect any criminal jury trial that has been affirmed at a final management conference to proceed during this timeframe.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED this suspension shall continue and roll over to the last day of each successive month unless a new Administrative Order is issued by the Presiding Judge lifting the suspension.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Grand Jury shall continue to be conducted and priority shall be given to conduct proceedings remotely through the ZOOM application. Empanelment of future Grand Juries may occur through in person and remote appearances.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the criminal divisions are authorized to conduct jury empanelment and voir dire through a combination of in person as well as remote proceedings through ZOOM or other electronic means on a trial basis through March 31, 2021.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED confirming all previous orders contained within Mohave County Administrative Order Nos. 2020-23 and 28 except as modified herein.

DATED this 15th day of December, 2020.

Honorable Charles W. Gurtler, Jr., Presiding Judge

Mohave County Superior Court

Original filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court in Mohave County