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**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.

**CORRECTED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-05(E)<sup>1</sup>  
[CLOSURE OF SJDC THROUGH MARCH 7, 2021]**

**[VACATING CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JURY TRIALS THROUGH MARCH 7, 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;

<sup>1</sup> In the original version of AO 2020-05(E), all dates were correct, however, TF numbers were incorrect in the following highlighted portions. “TF 7” should have read “TF 6” and “TF 8” should have read “TF 7.” As stated, the dates of the intended TFs were correct.

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 1/13/2021);  
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;

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 1/13/2021);

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")<sup>2</sup> and AO 2020-05(A) which adopted the NCJFCJ  
14 Statement's protective guidelines;

16 WHEREAS this AO is also intended to be consistent with the Center for Disease Control and  
17 Prevention guidelines;<sup>3</sup>

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](http://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);

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;

27 <sup>2</sup> [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 <sup>3</sup> The CDC guidelines are available at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncor/community/organizations](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncor/community/organizations) (last visited  
11/12/2020).

1           WHEREAS on November 23, 2020, Governor Sisolak entered Declaration of Emergency for  
2 Directive 035 (“Directive 035”) which again imposed more restrictive measures, including limiting  
3 gatherings to fifty (50) persons or twenty-five percent (25%) of the listed fire code capacity;  
4 [https://gov.nv.gov/News/ Emergency\\_Orders/2020/2020-11-24\\_ - COVID19\\_Emergency\\_  
5 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  
6 Directive shall remain in effect until terminated by a subsequent Directive.” Directive 035, §20.  
7 Governor Sisolak advised Directive 035 will remain in effect until at least January 15, 2021.  
8 [Gov.nv.gov/News/Press/20/20201213/extendsmoratorium](https://gov.nv.gov/News/Press/20/20201213/extendsmoratorium) (“extends Statewide ‘Pause’”) (last visited  
9 12/16/2021). **On January 11, 2021, Governor Sisolak advised Directive 035 will remain in effect  
10 for thirty (30) days (until February 14, 2021) but will be reviewed and will changed if warranted.**  
11 [Gov.nv.gov/News/Press/2021/Today\\_at\\_5\\_pm\\_Governor\\_Sisolak\\_to\\_provide\\_COVID19\\_mitigation  
12 \\_vaccination\\_update/](https://gov.nv.gov/News/Press/2021/Today_at_5_pm_Governor_Sisolak_to_provide_COVID19_mitigation_vaccination_update/)Then Click on: WHERE: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/  
13 UC3DFs26eOMbAbY7XPqsereQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3DFs26eOMbAbY7XPqsereQ) (last visited 1/13/2021).  
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15           WHEREAS the SJDC recommenced jury trials on September 21, 2020. On that date, Washoe  
16 County reported 1,221 active COVID-19 cases and 85.9 as the seven-day moving daily average for  
17 new COVID-19 positive cases. As of November 30, 2020, Washoe County reported 9,635 active  
18 cases and a seven-day moving average of 420 new cases per day. [https://gis.washoecounty.us/  
19 agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard](https://gis.washoecounty.us/agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard) (visited 11/30/2020). As of December 15, 2020, Washoe County  
20 reported 31,321 total cases, 13,378 active cases and a seven-day moving average of 383.6 new cases  
21 per day. [https://gis.washoecounty.us/ agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard](https://gis.washoecounty.us/agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard) (visited 12/16/2020). As of  
22 January 12, 2020, Washoe County reported 38,562 total cases, 15,699 active cases and a seven-day  
23 moving average of 241.6 new cases per day. [https://gis.washoecounty.us/  
24 agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard](https://gis.washoecounty.us/agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard) (last visited 1/13/2020).  
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1           WHEREAS the Statewide “Pause” extends beyond the commencement date of Trial Flight  
2 (“TF”) 6, February 8, 2021; and,

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

6           **Accordingly, and good cause appearing therefor, this Administrative Order 2020-05(E)**  
7 **follows:**

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

10           AO 2020-02(E) states, “After December 31, 2020, the Chief Judge will consider requests for a  
11 date certain for a trial within a TF. A process for such requests will be addressed in a subsequent  
12 AO.” AO 2020-02(E), p. 8, lns. 16-17.

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

16           By AO 2020-05(C), the Chief Judge vacated criminal and civil jury trials through January 10,  
17 2021.

18           By AO 2020-05(D), the Chief Judge vacated criminal and civil jury trials through February 7,  
19 2021.

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

1           The SJDC, including the General Jurisdiction 75 Court Street facility and the Family  
2 Division 1 S. Sierra facility, will remain temporarily closed, entrance will be limited through  
3 March 7, 2021. In-person scheduled proceedings, including criminal and civil trials, are  
4 vacated through March 7, 2021.  
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6           **The trials set in TF 7 [March 8, 2021] remain as set. Trials in TF 6 vacated by this AO**  
7 **shall be moved to TF 7, unless otherwise ordered by the assigned department.**

8           As the SJDC continues, through the TF model, to maximize its availability for the  
9 maximum number of trials, no requests for trial dates certain will be entertained by the Chief  
10 Judge until allowed by subsequent AO.  
11

12           This SJDC court closure does not affect the portions of the 1 S. Sierra Street facility that are  
13 not used by the Family Division of the SJDC, i.e., Reno Justice Court and Reno Municipal Court  
14 facilities.  
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16           Essential staff, as determined by the Chief Judge and Court Administrator, will be allowed on  
17 site and must adhere to SJDC protocols and policies regarding masks, temperature checks and all  
18 preventative procedures currently in place. Other access shall only be granted in extraordinary  
19 circumstances by the Chief Judge.  
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21           Access to the Second Judicial District Court will continue by electronic filing, telephone calls,  
22 live chat via the Court's website ([www.washoecourts.us](http://www.washoecourts.us)), physical mail of which distribution may be  
23 delayed, and audiovisual hearings conducted in accordance with the Nevada Rules Governing  
24 Appearance by Audiovisual Transmission Equipment, Part IX via Zoom.us platform. Public access  
25 to court proceedings is available for viewing and listening through the link on the SJDC website, on-  
26 line hearings, by department ([www.washoecourts.us/Online Hearings/\[Department\]/Click here to](http://www.washoecourts.us/Online%20Hearings/[Department]/Click%20here%20to)  
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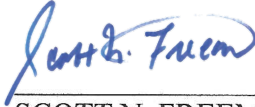
view on Zoom.us (last visited 1/13/2021) and also by accessing Zoom.us and entering the applicable webinar/meeting number.

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

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

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 15th day of January, 2021.



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SCOTT N. FREEMAN  
CHIEF JUDGE