

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

OUT OF CUSTODY CRIMINAL SENTENCINGS.

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-04**

WHEREAS the Second Judicial District Court ("the District Court") 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") issued a Declaration of Emergency in Nevada to facilitate response to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

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, and phases for reopening;

WHEREAS on March 16, 2020, Administrative Order ("AO") 2020-02 was entered by Chief Judge Scott N. Freeman ("the Chief Judge"), which ordered that all District Court hearings be heard via audio-visual means unless such an accommodation was not possible in an essential hearing type as defined within AO 2020-02;

WHEREAS on March 18, 2020, the Chief Judge issued AO 2020-05, which temporarily closed the courthouse to the public;

 WHEREAS on May 19, 2020, the Chief Judge issued AO 2020-02(B), which established a schedule for out of custody criminal calendars to be conducted via virtual means;

WHEREAS the Chief Judge continues to enter AOs as the pandemic ensues;

WHEREAS all issued 2020 AOs are available at washoecourts.com/Main/AdminOrders (last accessed 02/04/2021); and

WHEREAS the District Court has an interest in ensuring all defendants appearing via virtual means for the purposes of sentencing have the technology available to make such a virtual appearance successful.

## It is hereby ORDERED:

- 1. Effective February 8, 2021, unless otherwise ordered, out of custody defendants shall appear at the first floor of the Family Division in the courthouse at 1 South Sierra Street for the purposes of sentencing. At 1 South Sierra Street, an out of custody defendant will have use of technology equipment necessary to access a remote court hearing via Zoom or any other virtual platform utilized by the District Court.
- 2. While 1 South Sierra Street remains closed to the general public, an out of custody defendant may have counsel and no more than two additional individuals accompany him or her into 1 South Sierra Street. Additional individuals accompanying an out of custody defendant may not be permitted to remain with the out of custody defendant during the court proceeding, except for counsel. However, wifi access will be made available to any individual wishing to access the hearing via virtual means and using his or her own wifienabled device. If counsel chooses to attend in person, counsel shall be permitted to remain with his or her client until the sentencing or other criminal hearing is complete.
- 3. All individuals entering 1 South Sierra Street will be screened for COVID-related symptoms. If an out of custody defendant is not permitted to enter 1 South Sierra Street due to COVID-related symptoms, this information will be relayed to the Court through the Washoe County Sheriff's Office.

4. While present at 1 South Sierra Street in District Court facilities, social distancing protocols will be in place.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 4th day of February, 2021

Just & Frem

SCOTT FREEMAN Chief District Court Judge