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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:
RESCINDING TEMPORARY CLOSURE ORDER
AND DIRECTING PROCESS FOR CONTINUED
IN-PERSON EMPLOYEE AND PUBLIC
ACCESS TO THE SECOND JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-05(B)

**[SJDC REMAINS OPEN VIA VIRTUAL AND AUDIOVISUAL ACCESS
AS SJDC CONTINUES IN PERSON OPENING]**

[CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JURY TRIALS CONTINUE TO PROCEED]

[EMPLOYEES' AND PUBLIC'S CONTINUED RETURN TO COURT FACILITIES]

WHEREAS the Second Judicial District Court ("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 the judicial power is vested in the state Court system comprised of the Nevada Supreme Court, the Nevada Court of Appeals, District Courts, Justice Courts and Municipal Courts. Neva. Const. art. VI, §1. The Nevada Constitution expressly recognizes the Chief Justice as the administrative head of the Court system. Nev. Const. art. VI, §19. By expressly identifying the Chief Justice as the Court system's administrative leader, the Chief Justice has "inherent power to take actions reasonably necessary to administer justice efficiently, fairly, and economically,"

1 Halverson v. Hardcastle, 123 Nev. 245, 260, 163 P.3d 428, 439 (2007). Consequently, the Nevada
2 Supreme Court, “through the Chief Justice, has the ultimate authority over the judiciary’s inherent
3 administrative functions.” Id. at 260, 163 P.3d at 439.
4

5 WHEREAS on March 12, 2020, Governor Steve Sisolak (“Governor Sisolak”) issued a
6 Declaration of Emergency in response to the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). On
7 March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a nationwide emergency pursuant to
8 §501(6) of the Robert T. Stanford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. 42 U.S.C. §§5121-
9 5207;
10

11 WHEREAS the Declaration of Emergency in Nevada has not been rescinded although
12 Directives have been issued regarding reopening;

13 WHEREAS the Declaration of Emergency for COVID-19, and all Directives issued are
14 available at: [gov.nv.gov/News/Emergency_Orders/Emergency Orders](http://gov.nv.gov/News/Emergency_Orders/Emergency_Orders) (last accessed 5/30/2021)
15 (Directive 045 is not available on this site currently);
16

17 WHEREAS on May 3, 2021, Governor Sisolak issued Directive 045, stating:

18 Section 2: Consistent with Directive 041 and the *Nevada United: Roadmap to*
19 *Recovery* plan for a federally supported, state managed, and locally executed
20 reopening approach, county governments are hereby delegated the authority to manage
21 certain COVID-19 related mitigation measures, including restrictions on businesses
22 and public activities. Restrictions imposed by county government through their
23 COVID-19 Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan (“Local Plan”), as set forth in
24 Directive 041, may be more restrictive than the standards required by those statewide
25 Directives that remain in effect, but in no case shall county guidelines be more
26 permissive than the provisions of those Directives.

27 Declaration of Emergency Directive 045 (May 3, 2021) (emphasis in original);

28 WHEREAS Washoe County submitted its COVID-19 Mitigation Enforcement Plan for
approval by the Governor and State of Nevada’s COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force.
It was ultimately approved after a subsequent submission. (“Approved WC Plan”).

1 <https://covid19washoe.com/2021/05/03/washoe-county-covid-19-mitigation-enforcement-plan->
2 [approved-by-state-gov-sisolak](#) (last visited 6/13/2021). The Washoe County Board of County
3 Commissioners (“BCC”) approved elimination of all capacity and social distancing requirements
4 effective June 1, 2021. The BCC also, with certain exceptions, approved the elimination of mask¹
5 requirements for those who are vaccinated;
6

7 WHEREAS this AO is intended to be consistent with Nevada’s Declaration of Emergency in
8 Nevada, Governor Sisolak’s most recent Directives, and subsequent renewals or extensions of said
9 Directives, together with the Approved WC Plan, as approved by the BCC;
10

11 WHEREAS the Chief Judge continues to enter Administrative Orders (“AO(s)”) on court
12 matters during the COVID-19 pandemic as it ensues and wanes. All AOs are available at
13 [washoecourts.com/ Main/AdminOrders](http://washoecourts.com/Main/AdminOrders) (last visited 6/1/2021);
14

15 WHEREAS this AO is also intended to be consistent with the May 12, 2020, Statement from
16 the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Regarding Safe Courts and Access to
17 Justice During COVID-19 (“the NCJFCJ Statement”)² and AO 2020-05(A) which adopted the
18 NCJFCJ Statement’s protective guidelines and addresses when precautions should be altered, in now
19 pertinent part:
20

- 21 1. No court should return to full operation until prevailing science and local
22 health authorities say it is safe to do so.
- 23 2. Video and telephonic hearings should be encouraged whenever possible in the
24 interest of justice so that all parties and witnesses can participate. . .

25 * * *

- 26 5. When any court re-opens, it should follow the Centers for Disease Control and
27 Prevention (CDC) recommendations for distancing, including in elevators,
28

¹ In this AO, “mask” shall mean a face covering that snugly covers the nose and mouth. It does not include face coverings with vents, exhalation valves, or mesh, gaiters or bandanas, which are not permitted. “Mask” includes face shields but only if worn with a mask and not alone.

² [NCJFCJ.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NCJFCJ_Statement_Regarding_Court_Safety_COVID-19_Final.pdf](https://www.ncjfcj.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NCJFCJ_Statement_Regarding_Court_Safety_COVID-19_Final.pdf) (last visited 6/1/2021).

1 wearing masks or other personal protective equipment . . . If local health
2 requirements are more strict . . . courts should follow the more stringent rules.

- 3 6. Physical distancing measures should be in effect and enforced for the
4 foreseeable future until testing has been deemed sufficient to allow contact
5 tracing, or a vaccine has been developed, is available, and has been given to
6 the requisite percentage of the population. This is the only way we will know
7 whether someone entering our busy courthouses has the virus or has been
8 exposed to it.
- 9 7. Courts and/or local officials should provide personal protective equipment,
10 including but not limited to masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer, to judicial
11 officers and court staff.
- 12 8. Criminal defendants, juvenile offenders, parents in dependency cases, parties,
13 victims, witnesses, counsel, and jurors are ordered to appear in court. They
14 cannot “opt-out.” Therefore, courts and/or local officials should provide
15 personal protective equipment to anyone who enters a courthouse until they are
16 deemed unnecessary by local health authorities.
- 17 9. Court dockets and schedules should be staggered or otherwise organized to
18 minimize crowding . . .

19 WHEREAS this AO is also intended to be consistent with the Center for Disease
20 Control and Prevention (“CDC”) guidelines³;

21 WHEREAS the SJDC recommenced jury trials on September 21, 2020. On that date, Washoe
22 County reported 1,221 active COVID-19 cases and 85.9 as the seven-day moving daily average for
23 new COVID-19 positive cases. <https://gis.washoecounty.us/agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard>
24 (visited 9/21/2020);

25 WHEREAS on April 5, 2021, SJDC again commenced criminal jury trials. On this date,
26 Washoe County reported 2,133 active COVID-19 cases and 61.4 as the seven-day moving daily
27 average for new COVID-19 positive cases. Civil jury trials commenced on April 15, 2021 (prior
28 cases in the flight resolved by settlement)ⁱ;

³ The CDC guidelines are available at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncor/community/organizations](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncor/community/organizations) (last visited 6/1/2021).

1 WHEREAS on June 22, 2021, Washoe County reported approximately 1,336 active COVID-
2 19 cases and 19.4 as the seven-day moving daily average for new COVID-19 positive cases;

3 WHEREAS the SJDC continues to monitor the Governor’s Directives, BCC approvals, and
4 the CDC guidelines for conducting SJDC proceedings; and,
5

6 WHEREAS it is critical for the SJDC to continue to take precautions related to COVID-19,
7 and its emerging variants, by methodically continuing the use of audiovisual access to SJDC
8 proceedings while also providing physical access of employees and the public to its facilities for jury
9 trials and hearings.
10

11 **Accordingly, and good cause appearing therefor, this Administrative Order 2021-05(B)**
12 **follows:**

13 All provisions of prior AOs shall remain in full force and effect except as modified or
14 supplemented by this and subsequent AOs. This AO specifically amends AO 2021-05 and AO 2021-
15 05(A).
16

17 During the COVID-19 pandemic, the SJDC, in consultation with the Nevada Supreme Court,
18 exercised its ministerial judicial powers to control entry into SJDC facilities. On an emergency basis,
19 the Chief Judge entered AOs 2020-2 and subsequent AOs to date. These AOs changed SJDC
20 procedures to minimize person-to-person contact and mitigate the risk associated with the COVID-19
21 pandemic, and to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, while continuing to provide essential SJDC
22 services.
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1 This AO continues the SJDC's operational and judicial response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2 Since the March 16, 2020, issuance of AO 2020-2 and the March 18, 2020, issuance of
3 AO 2020-05 temporarily closing in-person public access to the SJDC physical facilities, the
4 SJDC effectively continued Court operations, Court proceedings and public access to the Court
5 via strategic planning, virtual and alternative method access, and graduated in-person access
6 based on national, state and local restrictions, CDC guidelines, and prevailing science and
7 statistics.
8

9 **THE CONTINUED OPENING OF THE SJDC SHALL PROCEED AS DISCUSSED,**
10 **EFFECTIVE JULY 6, 2021. AUDIOVISUAL PROCEEDINGS REMAIN THE PREFERRED**
11 **METHOD FOR CONDUCTING PROCEEDINGS.**
12

13 **Court Proceedings During Closure and Continued Opening**

14 As stated, since entry of AO 2020-05, the SJDC has remained committed to facilitating
15 continued Court operations and proceedings. From March 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021, the SJDC's
16 judicial officers entered approximately 75,400 orders, conducted approximately 35,500 hearings
17 (includes heard matters only and does not include continued hearings) via audiovisual means, and
18 safely conducted approximately twenty (20) approved in-person hearings and eleven (11) jury trials.
19 Zoom meetings/webinars conducted in the one (1) year period of June 1, 2020 – June 1, 2021⁴ totaled
20 11,612 with 180,976 participants (multiple hearings and entire dockets often occur on one
21 meeting/webinar). These meetings/webinars also include Zoom bench trials and settlement
22 conferences.
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⁴ Zoom.com maintains usage information for a rolling one (1) year period.

1 Since the April 5, 2021, jury trials and resolution by change of pleas or settlement or attorney
2 or party requested continuances occurred as follows⁵:

3 Trial Flight⁶ 8 – April 5, 2021 (criminal)

- 4 • 28 cases in TF
5 • 20 cases resolved; of these, 5 cases resolved via jury trial
6 • 8 cases continued to later TF

7 Trial Stack 1⁷ – April 6, 2021 (civil)

- 8 • 4 cases in TS
9 • 4 cases resolved; of these, 1 case resolved via jury trial

10 Trial Flight 9 – May 3, 2021 (criminal)

- 11 • 6 criminal cases in TF
12 • 3 cases resolved; of these, 0 cases resolved via jury trial
13 • 3 cases continued to later TF

14 Trial Stack 2 – May 4, 2021 (civil)

- 15 • 7 cases in the stack
16 • 5 cases resolved; 2 cases resolved via jury trial
17 • 2 cases continued to later TS

18 **Vaccination Information**

19 “In general, people are considered fully vaccinated: 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-
20 doses series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as
21 Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine.” [https://www.dcd.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-
22 vaccinated.html#vaccinated](https://www.dcd.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html#vaccinated) (bullets and footnote omitted) (last visited 6/23/2021). “Unvaccinated
23 person refers to individuals of all ages, including children, that have not completed a vaccination
24 series or received a single-dose vaccine.” [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/
25 fully-vaccinated-guidance.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html) (last visited 6/1/2021). On June 1, 2021, the CDC’s guidance

26 ⁵ Continuances have been granted at counsel’s request or due to appointment of new counsel and not at the SJDC’s behest.

27 ⁶ The SJDC adopted a Trial Flight (“TF”) and Trial Stack (“TS”) process for conducting jury trials. The TF
28 system for criminal jury trials was established in AO 2020-02(E).

⁷ The TS system for civil jury trials was established in AO 2021-07 and AO 2021-07(A).

1 included persons who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear a mask or social distance from
2 others. Unvaccinated persons are required to wear a mask and social distance from others.

3 Vaccinated and unvaccinated persons “will still need to follow guidance at your workplace.”

4 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html> (last visited 6/1/2021).

5
6 On June 1, 2021, Washoe County observed on its Regional Information Center COVID-19
7 update:

8 The change coincides with Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak’s announcement to
9 terminate all state COVID-19 mitigation measures by June 1. As of today, all
10 businesses in Washoe County can reopen to 100 percent capacity and social distancing
11 is no longer required. Masks do not need to be worn by those who have received the
12 COVID-19 vaccine (1 dose for Janssen – Johnson & Johnson and two doses for
13 Moderna and Pfizer) and it has been two weeks since the final dose.

14 [https://covid19washoe.com/2021/06/01/covid-19-weekday-updates-come-to-a-close-residents-urged-
to-follow-covid-19-dashboard/](https://covid19washoe.com/2021/06/01/covid-19-weekday-updates-come-to-a-close-residents-urged-to-follow-covid-19-dashboard/).

15 As of June 22, 2021, in Washoe County, 445,181 vaccine doses have been administered,
16 representing 53.64% fully vaccinated individuals in the county’s age twelve (12) plus population.

17 Breakthrough cases (tested positive two-plus weeks after being fully vaccinated) totaled 116.

18 [https://www.washoecounty.us/health/programsand services/cphp/communicable diseases-and-
19 epidemiology/educational-materials/covid-19.php](https://www.washoecounty.us/health/programsand services/cphp/communicable diseases-and-epidemiology/educational-materials/covid-19.php).

21 **Judges and Court Employees**

22 It remains critical and prudent for the SJDC to continue opening while reducing opportunities
23 for reemergence of COVID-19, and variant caused transmission, at levels that would preclude
24 continued court operations. Therefore, the SJDC is continuing to incrementally open the SJDC
25 facilities to employees, parties, counsel and the public.
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1 **Safety and Precautions**

2 Consistent Nevada OSHA's Updated Guidance, effective May 14, 2021, the following
3 workplace safety protocols shall be incorporated by the SJDC to the maximum extent practicable:
4

- 5 a. Employers should encourage employees to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- 6 b. Organizations may have mask policies that are more restrictive than the CDC guidance.
- 7 c. All employers must provide face coverings for unvaccinated employees and shall
8 require these employees to wear face coverings in all instances where required by
9 emergency directives, including any space visited by the general public, even if no one
10 else is present.
- 11 d. Close or limit access to common areas where employees are likely to congregate and
12 interact. When in common areas, face coverings are required for unvaccinated
13 employees.
- 14 e. Maintain regular housekeeping practices, including routine cleaning and disinfecting
15 of surfaces and equipment.
- 16 f. Conduct daily surveys of changes to staff/labor health conditions.
- 17 g. Post signage with the latest CDC mask guidance for vaccinated and unvaccinated
18 guests.

19 The SJDC is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our employees and
20 the public it serves. To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we will continue to operate in a manner
21 that reduces the risks associated with this public health emergency. Consequently, the following
22 precautions are ordered:
23

24 During general SJDC operations, until further AO, unvaccinated judges and employees shall
25 wear masks at all times in SJDC facilities. Vaccinated judges are not required to wear masks in
26 chambers. Vaccinated employees are not required to wear masks in offices where the employee does
27 not interface with the public. All judges and employees will wear masks when interfacing with the
28 public. Interfacing with the public includes courtroom proceedings. Employees must provide proof
of vaccination to SJDC Human Resources. Judges must provide proof of vaccination to the Chief
Judge.

The daily employee health survey and temperature screening is no longer required of judges
and employees. An incident-based reporting system has been implemented.

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County Employees (Non-SJDC Employees)

Washoe County Sheriff's Office employees, Washoe County Facilities employees, and outside contractors must adhere to the same mask protocols as SJDC employees. All other Washoe County employees must adhere to mask protocols that apply to members of the public.

Public Entrance and Interaction

During this time, it remains critical to prevent the spread of illness among members of the Court, counsel, staff, the public, and our community partners. CDC has advised people to take precautions to stay healthy and that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure. Mask requirements for fully vaccinated individuals have been eliminated by Washoe County, with some exceptions, including public transportation and detention facilities. The SJDC recognizes that, unlike most other facilities, attendance at court proceedings is often compelled and individuals are frequently required to remain in enclosed courtrooms for extended periods of time (in excess of fifteen minutes).

After review of guidelines and with consideration of the SDJC's physical limitations at 75 Court Street, the Chief Judge concludes **all persons shall wear masks in SJDC facilities, including any security screening line to enter regardless of vaccination status** except as otherwise provided in this AO or ordered by the Chief Judge. Children under the age of two and individuals who are unable to remove a mask without assistance are not required to comply with these mask directives. Individuals who are unable to wear a mask should request to appear by alternative means.

Social distancing requirements were eliminated for fully vaccinated persons by revised CDC guidelines and by the BCC as of June 1, 2021. Notwithstanding elimination of social distancing requirements for fully vaccinated individuals, all judicial officers are encouraged to manage courtrooms to allow comfortable space between people in the courtroom – for example, requiring

1 members of the public to sit in every other seat, or spacing jury chairs out to allow the maximum
2 amount of space between jurors.

3 SJDC Court Administration shall maintain notices at the entrance of all SJDC facilities
4 advising the following people may not enter SJDC facilities:
5

6 (1) All persons without a mask;

7 (2) Persons who are ill or experiencing unexplained fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

8 Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these protocols or refusing to comply with the protocols
9 will be denied entry.
10

11 Temperature screening is no longer required of non-SJDC employees.

12 **Physical Limitations in Court Facilities**

13 The General Jurisdiction building located at 75 Court Street has physical limitations which
14 that increases congestion of persons in the facility (i.e., elevators reduced to one working elevator and
15 non-function air conditioning in courtroom(s)) as well as the in person on-going jury trials which
16 require additional space to stage, provide areas for breaks, and accommodate counsel and parties).
17 Effectuation of continued opening will be determined on business and space needs, space availability,
18 impact on proceedings and restrictions due to facility repairs.
19

20 The Court Administrator shall keep the Chief Judge apprised of issues in facilities and will
21 immediately request repair, if needed, by Washoe County Facilities. In addition, the Court
22 Administrator shall contact Washoe County Facilities at the beginning of each month to request
23 confirmation the ventilation systems are functioning and programmed to operate in compliance with
24 CDC guidelines.
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1 **Court Proceedings**

2 **Appearances by Alternative Means**

3 To ensure access to justice, continue to minimize the potential for the spread of COVID-19
4 infection among persons in SJDC facilities, and to reduce foot traffic in SJDC facilities, **appearances**
5 **by alternative means remain preferred.** For court proceedings, judicial officers should, to the
6 extent possible, accommodate requests to appear by alternative means for any attorney, party or
7 witness who is considered a vulnerable person under current CDC guidelines. This includes persons
8 who are over 65, pregnant, or suffering from an underlying health condition.
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11 The SJDC's means of alternative appearance includes audiovisual and audio appearance via
12 the Zoom.us platform.

13 Attorneys, parties, and witnesses are reminded, appearance by alternative means still
14 constitutes a court appearance and attire should remain professional and court appropriate.
15 Appearances should be made from a quiet place free of distractions. Also, for the safety of the
16 community and to facilitate audiovisual quality, no appearances by alternative means will be allowed
17 by persons driving a vehicle.
18

19 EFFECTIVE JULY 6, 2021, in General Jurisdiction matters, jury trials (including Short Trial
20 Program jury trials) will continue in person. Bench trials, and other evidentiary hearings, including
21 hearings on motions to suppress, motions regarding expert qualification, motions in limine requiring
22 testimony, and motions regarding prior act evidence may also proceed in person. All other
23 proceedings, including hearings that do not require testimony, will proceed via audiovisual platform.
24 Should all parties consent and the Court approves and orders such, any hearings requiring testimony
25 may be conducted via audiovisual platform. Judicial officers may also order proceedings to occur via
26 audiovisual platform.
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1 Family Division non-evidentiary hearings shall continue to proceed via audiovisual means.
2 Evidentiary hearings and bench trials may be heard via audiovisual means or in-person, as
3 determined by the presiding judge in the judicial department.
4

5 DURING IN PERSON PROCEEDINGS, ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL WEAR MASKS IN
6 THE COURTROOM. The judicial officer may allow participants, including jury venire members, to
7 lower their masks when talking.

8 Judicial officers, to the extent possible, shall accommodate requests to appear by alternative
9 means for any attorney, party or witness who is considered a vulnerable person under current CDC
10 guidelines.
11

12 By prior AO, courtrooms used at 75 Court Street included Department 4, Department 9,
13 Courtroom A, and the Complex Litigation Courtroom ("CLC"). At 1 South Sierra Street, designated
14 hearing rooms were used. EFFECTIVE JULY 6, 2021, ALL AVAILABLE COURTROOMS MAY
15 BE UTILIZED.
16

17 The SJDC will continue to follow the updated COVID-19 Jury Trial Plan for safely
18 conducting jury trials. Jury selection will take place in individual courtrooms, or the CLC, following
19 all necessary protocols. Trial commencement dates within TFs and TSs will allow for summoning
20 of up to two jury venires on those dates.
21

22 Beginning June 28, 2021, trials commenced being heard in the assigned departments'
23 courtroom and will continue to do so unless an accommodation is required for the proceeding to
24 occur in another courtroom. Jury trials in TFs and TSs going forward shall proceed as set and
25 prioritized by AO. The SJDC continues, through the TF and TS models, to maximize hearing the
26 maximum number of trials confirmed to proceed.
27
28

1 If a judge is not available to preside over a trial and the trial involves a defendant who has
2 invoked the right to a speedy trial, or any other case involving a statutory or constitutional priority, the
3 Chief Judge may reassign the trial to another judicial department, or a senior judge, as necessary to
4 ensure that trials are completed during the TFs and TSs are maximized.

6 The time period of any continuance entered as a result of the pandemic caused by COVID-19,
7 shall be excluded for the purposes of calculating speedy trial under NRS 178.556(1) and NRS 174.511
8 as the Court finds that the ends of justice served by taking this action outweigh the interests of the
9 parties and public in a speedy trial.

11 Exhibits should be submitted to the assigned judicial department in the manner directed by the
12 judicial officer.

13 Media reporters may request to attend any public court proceeding for the purpose of observing
14 the proceedings. Any reporter requesting such an appearance in person or by audiovisual means must
15 contact Court Administration. Media representatives must comply with Part IV. Rules on Electronic
16 Coverage of Court Proceedings of the Nevada Supreme Court Rules (SCR 229 – 246).

18 Part IX of the Nevada Supreme Court Rules governing appearances by telephonic and
19 audiovisual transmission expressly excludes juvenile proceedings from the rules governing
20 appearances by telephonic and audiovisual transmission. This rule is suspended as it relates to
21 juvenile proceedings. Attorneys, probation officers, social workers, parents, guardians, and any other
22 necessary parties to a juvenile proceeding may appear by audiovisual means, unless in person is
23 granted by the judge.

25 **Weekly Criminal Dockets**

26 All criminal matters shall continue to be heard. By separate AO, each judicial department will
27 be assigned a time to hear an audiovisual docket via Zoom platform and to hear an in person docket.
28

1 The SJDC Resource Center, Protection Order Help Center and Washoe County Law Library
2 are encouraged to continue to serve as many individuals as possible by phone, email, and other
3 alternative means. These departments are also open for in-person assistance to persons with
4 appointments and walk-ins if space is available. Appointments can be made by calling 775-325-6731
5 or appearing and setting the first available appointment.
6

7 Litigants are encouraged to file electronically without a personal visit to the Resource Center
8 Office when at all possible. For litigants who do not have the ability to electronically file documents,
9 documents may be mailed to the following address:
10

11 Second Judicial District Court Clerk's Office
12 75 Court Street
13 Reno, Nevada 89501

14 For those who need in person assistance to E-file documents, the Resource Center staff can
15 provide assistance from 8:00 am to 4 p.m.

16 The SJDC drop box of 1 S. Sierra remains available and accessible. Instructions for paying
17 fees, fines and obtaining copies online, via telephone, drop box or mail, may be accessed on the
18 SJDC's website by Clicking on the "Pay fees, fines, and copies online using a credit or debit card"
19 button. <https://www.washoecourts.com/Click Pay fees, fines and copies online> (last visited
20 6/1/2021).
21

22 **Grand Jury Proceedings**

23 By August 1, 2021, the Jury Commissioner shall submit a plan to the Court Administrator for
24 empaneling the grand jury, including a timeline for summoning the venire members and selecting the
25 grand jury panel. By subsequent AO, the Chief Judge will direct when the grand jury will be
26 empaneled. The Chief Judge may consider empaneling two grand juries if facilities allow.
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Settlement Conferences

Judicial settlement conferences continue to be highly encouraged. Settlement conference statements and supporting exhibits shall be submitted electronically, unless otherwise ordered. Settlement conferences shall continue to be held by audiovisual means.

Specialty Court Program

All Specialty Court Program dockets will continue to occur by audiovisual means until further iiAO.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

All matters in the Court Annexed Arbitration Program, Court Annexed Mediation Program, and Nevada Foreclosure Mediation Program should proceed. These matters shall be conducted by audiovisual means.

For any cases assigned to the Court Annexed Arbitration program, the time between March 17, 2020, and July 6, 2021 shall not be applied toward the one-year time limit for holding any arbitration hearing pursuant to NAR 12(B).

Guardianship Proceedings

All guardianship matters may continue to proceed by audiovisual means, including compliance hearings. For adult guardianships, all proposed protected persons and protected persons must appear by alternative means. For minor guardianships, appearance is within the discretion of the judge.

Termination of Parental Rights Proceedings

Termination of parental rights proceedings will be conducted in person or by audiovisual means. Termination of parental rights trials will be conducted in-person unless there is a stipulation by the parties or extraordinary circumstances exist to conduct the trial remotely as determined by the

1 Court. Other motions may be decided on the papers or heard by alternative means. Status checks
2 maybe handled by written reports or, if necessary, heard by alternative means.

3
4 **Probate and Trust Matters**

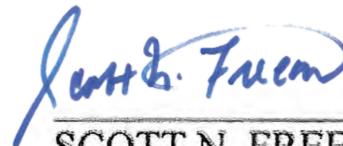
5 Probate hearings that are opposed or require a hearing will be heard by audiovisual means
6 unless the judicial officer determines that an in person hearing is required.

7 **This SJDC AO does not affect the portions of the 1 S. Sierra Street facility that are not**
8 **used by the Family Division of the SJDC, i.e., Reno Justice Court and Reno Municipal Court**
9 **facilities.**

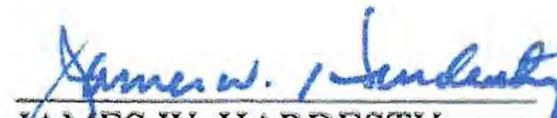
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11 This AO shall be reviewed at appropriate intervals, as determined by the Chief Judge, based
12 on the changing circumstances relating to the SJDC's continued opening, and shall remain in effect
13 until modified or rescinded by a subsequent order.

14 IT IS SO ORDERED.

15 DATED this 1st day of July, 2021.

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19 SCOTT N. FREEMAN
20 CHIEF JUDGE

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23 JAMES W. HARDESTY
24 CHIEF JUSTICE
25 NEVADA SUPREME COURT