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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
THROUGH MAY 31, 2021.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-05(A)

[CLOSURE OF SJDC TO PUBLIC THROUGH MAY 31, 2021]

[CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JURY TRIALS ARE PROCEEDING]

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;

WHEREAS the Declaration of Emergency for COVID-19, and all Directives issued are available at: gov.nv.gov/News/Emergency_Orders/Emergency Orders (last accessed 4/10/2021);

1 This AO is intended to be consistent with the Declaration of Emergency in Nevada and to effectuate
2 Governor Sisolak's issued Directives resulting from the Declaration of Emergency and subsequent
3 renewals or extensions of said Directives;

4 WHEREAS the Chief Judge continues to enter Administrative Orders ("AO(s)") on court
5 matters during the COVID-19 pandemic as it ensues. All AOs are available at [washoecourts.com/
6 Main/AdminOrders](http://washoecourts.com/Main/AdminOrders) (last visited 4/6/2021);

7
8 WHEREAS this AO is intended to be consistent with the May 12, 2020, Statement from the
9 National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Regarding Safe Courts and Access to Justice
10 During COVID-19 ("the NCJFCJ Statement")¹ and AO 2020-05(A) which adopted the NCJFCJ
11 Statement's protective guidelines;

12
13 WHEREAS this AO is also intended to be consistent with the Center for Disease Control and
14 Prevention guidelines;²

15
16 WHEREAS the SJDC recommenced jury trials on September 21, 2020. On that date, Washoe
17 County reported 1,221 active COVID-19 cases and 85.9 as the seven-day moving daily average for
18 new COVID-19 positive cases. [https://gis.washoecounty.us/
19 agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard](https://gis.washoecounty.us/agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard)
(visited 9/21/2020).

20
21 WHEREAS on April 5, 2021, SJDC again commenced jury trials. On this date, Washoe
22 County reported 2,133 active COVID-19 cases and 61.4 as the seven-day moving daily average for
23 new COVID-19 positive cases. On April 15, 2021, Washoe County reported 1,944 active COVID -
24 19 cases and 55.4 as the seven-day moving daily average for new COVID-19 positive cases.
25 [https://gis.washoecounty.us/
26 agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard](https://gis.washoecounty.us/agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard) (last visited 4/18/2021).

27 ¹ [NCJFCJ.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NCJFCJ_Statement_Regarding_Court_Safety_COVID-
28 19_Final.pdf](https://www.ncjfcj.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NCJFCJ_Statement_Regarding_Court_Safety_COVID-19_Final.pdf) (last visited 10/27/2020).

² The CDC guidelines are available at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncor/community/organizations](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncor/community/organizations) (last visited
4/6/2021).

1 WHEREAS as of April 15, 2021, the Regional Information Center for Washoe County reports
2 138,161 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered. <https://www.covid19washoevaccine.com/>
3 (last visited 4/18/2021).

4 WHEREAS Trial Flight (“TF”) 8 (Criminal) commenced April 5, 2021 and Trial Stack “TS”
5
6 1 (Civil) was set to commence April 6, 2021;

7 WHEREAS the SJDC continues to monitor the Governor’s Directives and any actions of the
8 Board of County Commissioners regarding re-opening; and,

9 WHEREAS it is critical for the SJDC to continue to take precautions related to the spread of
10 COVID-19, and its emerging variants, by restricting complete physical access to the public while
11 commencing with jury trials and allowing public access to the Courts via alternative methods.

12
13 **Accordingly, and good cause appearing therefor, this Administrative Order 2021-05(A)**
14 **follows:**

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

17
18 By prior AOs and AO 2020-05(E), the Chief Judge vacated criminal and civil jury trials
19 through April 4, 2021.

20 It remains critical for the SJDC to take prudent steps and appropriate measures to reduce
21 opportunities for the spread of COVID-19, and its emerging variants, as the Court reopens.

22
23 **Accordingly, the SJDC, including the General Jurisdiction 75 Court Street facility and**
24 **the Family Division 1 S. Sierra facility, will remain temporarily closed to the public, nunc pro**
25 **nunc to April 4, 2021, and entrance will be limited through May 31, 2021. In-person scheduled**
26 **proceedings, other than jury trials, will proceed by audio/visual platform in lieu of in-person**
27 **proceedings, through May 31, 2021, unless otherwise approved for hearing in designated**
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1 **Family Division hearing rooms.**

2 **The trials (criminal) set in TF 8 [April 5, 2021] are proceeding as set. The trials (civil)**
3 **set in TS 1 [April 6, 2021] are proceeding as set. Trials in TFs and TSs going forward shall**
4 **proceed as set and prioritized by AO.**

5
6 **As the SJDC continues, through the TF and TS models, to maximize its availability for**
7 **the maximum number of trials, no requests for trial dates certain will be entertained by the**
8 **Chief Judge until allowed by subsequent AO.**

9
10 This SJDC court closure does not affect the portions of the 1 S. Sierra Street facility that are
11 not used by the Family Division of the SJDC, i.e., Reno Justice Court and Reno Municipal Court
12 facilities.

13 The SJDC has designated certain hearing rooms at 1 S. Sierra Street for in person hearings as
14 scheduled and approved by the Chief Judge and/or the Presiding Judge of the Family Court Division.

15 Staff is returning, as determined by the Chief Judge and Court Administrator, and will be
16 allowed on site and must adhere to SJDC protocols and policies regarding masks, temperature checks
17 and all preventative procedures currently in place. Other access shall only be granted by the Chief
18 Judge.
19

20 Access to the Second Judicial District Court will continue by electronic filing, telephone calls,
21 live chat via the Court's website (www.washoecourts.us), physical mail of which distribution may be
22 delayed, and audiovisual hearings conducted in accordance with the Nevada Rules Governing
23 Appearance by Audiovisual Transmission Equipment, Part IX via Zoom.us platform. Public access
24 to court proceedings is available for viewing and listening through the link on the SJDC website, on-
25 line hearings, by department ([www.washoecourts.us/Online Hearings/\[Department\]/Click here](http://www.washoecourts.us/OnlineHearings/[Department]/Clickhere) to
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1 view on Zoom.us (last visited 4/6/2021) and also by accessing Zoom.us and entering the applicable
2 webinar/meeting number.

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

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

8 IT IS SO ORDERED.

9 DATED this 20th day of April, 2021.

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13 SCOTT N. FREEMAN
14 CHIEF JUDGE
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