

COVID-19 ADVISORY

What You Should Know About How COVID-19 Is Affecting Courts in Arizona



FEDERAL DISTRICTS IN ARIZONA

- Chief Judge Snow issued [General Order 20-13](#) in response to the COVID-19 crisis:
 - All jury trials scheduled to commence before May 4 are postponed until further notice.
 - Trial deadlines in criminal cases scheduled to begin before May 4 are postponed until further notice.
 - Judges may continue to hold hearings, conferences, and bench trials to the extent necessary, but the proceedings shall be telephonic or virtual when feasible.
 - Non-case related activities are canceled until further notice, including naturalization ceremonies, attorney admission ceremonies, mock trials, CLE events, school tours, and all other non-case related gatherings.
 - Customer service counters are closed until May 1, but employees in the Clerk's Offices are available by phone.
 - Electronic filings will still be processed.
 - In-person filings and criminal debt payments must be left in drop boxes near the courthouse entrances.

ARIZONA STATE COURTS

- [Arizona State Courts resource center](#).
- [Arizona State Bar resource center](#).
- Chief Justice Brutinel issued [Admin. Order 2020-48](#):



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- All in-person proceedings in all Arizona courts are to be avoided to the greatest extent possible. Except in extraordinary circumstances, in no event shall court proceedings bring more than 10 people together. Proceedings shall be limited to parties, attorneys, victims, witnesses, jurors, court personnel, and other necessary persons.
- The period from March 18 through April 17 is excluded from the calculation of time under rule provisions and statutory procedures that require court proceedings to be held within a specific period of time, including Rule 8 of the Rules of Criminal Procedure; Rules 17, 79, and 100 of the Rules of Procedure for the Juvenile Court; and Rules 2 and 3 of the Rules of Procedure in Eviction Actions.
- The period from March 18 through April 17 is not excluded for:
 - initial appearances, arraignments, preliminary hearings, and conditions of release for persons in custody.
 - domestic violence protective proceedings.
 - child protection temporary custody hearings.
 - civil commitment hearings and reviews.
 - emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable persons proceedings.
 - habeas corpus proceedings.
 - COVID-19 public health emergency proceedings.
 - juvenile detention hearings.
 - any other necessary proceeding in connection with a request for emergency relief.
- Continuances are to be granted liberally.
- Local Rules of Procedure may be modified or suspended by order from the presiding superior court judges.
- Any rule that impedes the use of technology to limit in-person contact is suspended through April 17. Judges may hold telephonic ex parte hearing on orders of protection.
- Clerks of court shall continue to issue marriage certificates, and courts may hold wedding ceremonies as long as no more than 10 people are present.

MARICOPA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURTS

- [General information](#).
- Juror selection in all Maricopa County courts has been [halted](#) through April 17.
 - Jurors scheduled to first appear before April 1 are [excused and deemed to have fulfilled their service](#).
 - No new jury trials will be scheduled before March 31.

- Ongoing jury trials may continue at the discretion of the trial judge/commissioner.
- Nonessential functions are canceled, including field trips, court tours, law library workshops, volunteer events, and conferences.
- [Modified Civil Department Operations.](#)
 - No new juries empaneled through April 17.
 - Judicial officers are to limit in-person proceedings. Requests to convert an in-person proceeding into a telephonic or virtual proceeding should be directed to individual judges.
 - Court-appointed arbitrators are permitted to postpone proceedings for up to 120 days from the appointment, upon a showing of good cause. They also may conduct proceedings and hear testimony telephonically.
 - Settlement conference deadlines will be extended.
 - The Law Library Resource Center is restricted to individuals seeking protective orders and orders against harassment.

Sherman & Howard gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Extern Law Clerk Jake Rapp in preparing this memorandum.

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