

# Effective April 27, 2020

## The Surprise City Court Reschedules Trials and Implements Temporary Measures Mitigating COVID Exposure Risk

As authorized by the Arizona Supreme Court, the Surprise City Court has taken steps to mitigate COVID-19 exposure risk to persons conducting court business or summoned for jury duty. Administrative Order 20-05 was issued by Presiding Judge Louis Frank Dominguez, that implements temporary measures to reduce in-person contact in a manner consistent with the Center for Disease Controls' social distancing guidelines.

**The Court lobby will be open to allow individuals to use the Kiosk to file Protective Orders, make online credit card payments, and file motions. Individuals with business before the Court are encouraged to call the Court main number (623)222-4800 or email at [municipalcourt@surpriseaz.gov](mailto:municipalcourt@surpriseaz.gov).**

In summary the order does the following:

- (a) No jury trials will be scheduled before June 1, 2020.
- (b) Beginning April 27, 2020, any case continued from arraignment will not be scheduled prior to June 2, 2020.
- (c) All post arraignment non-trial settings for out of custody defendants currently scheduled for May 11, 2020 through June 1, 2020 are continued to a date not earlier than June 2, 2020.
- (d) All non-jury trials for out of custody defendants currently scheduled for May 11, 2020 through June 1, 2020 are vacated and will be reset for a status conference after June 1, 2020.
- (e) The appearance date for all civil traffic complaints will be scheduled 60 days from the date of violation.
- (f) All civil traffic and civil municipal code hearings currently scheduled for May 11, 2020 through June 1, 2020 are continued to a date not earlier than June 2, 2020.
- (g) For all criminal cases subject to this Order, finding good cause and that delay is indispensable to the interests of justice, time is excluded or tolled for the purpose of calculating time under Rules 8 and 27, *Rules of Criminal Procedure*.
- (h) All Protective Order proceedings will continue with the direction that telephonic or video appearances are to be utilized where feasible until further notice.
- (i) All non-essential functions currently scheduled to be conducted in the Court are cancelled until further notice, including field trips, tours, City Court Academy and Teen Court.
- (j) All proceedings occurring within the Court are to be conducted in a manner consistent with Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) social distancing recommendations until further notice.
- (k) In-person contact will be limited as much as possible by using available technologies, including alternative means of filing, teleconferencing, video conferencing, and use of email and text messages and issuing orders to reasonably ensure the health and safety of all participants.
- (l) CDC social distancing recommendations will be followed. All persons with scheduled appearances or non-scheduled appearances are required to notify the Court of any COVID-19 symptoms or suspected exposure and shall refrain from entering the courthouse.

(m) In-person proceedings will be limited to attorneys, parties, victims, witnesses, jurors, court personnel, and other necessary persons, where necessary to maintain the recommended social distancing within a court facility. Trial judges are authorized to make reasonable orders to ensure the health and safety of hearing participants consistent with the parties' right to due process.