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IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF RENO TOWNSHIP  
COUNTY OF WASHOE, STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER OF  
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-02**

Pursuant to NRS 4.157(c) and JCRRT 21, the Chief Justice of the Peace of Reno Township hereby enters this Administrative Order in response to the State of Emergency declared by Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak on March 12, 2020. To date, Governor Sisolak’s declaration has not been rescinded. On March 19, 2020, the Court entered Administrative Order 2020-3, which modified Court operations during the COVID-19 emergency. Specifically, Administrative Order 2020-3 closed most of the Court to in-person access. On May 28, 2020 Governor Sisolak signed Declaration of Emergency Directive 021 and announced that Nevada would enter Phase II of the statewide reopening plan. Emergency Directive 021 states, among other things, that “Nevada’s medical experts indicate that the rate at which COVID-19 is spreading in the State of Nevada has effectively slowed to a level that does not jeopardize the state’s healthcare system.... and although the danger to Nevadans from the COVID-19 disease has abated, the disease has not been eliminated and measures that protect safety, wellbeing, and public health of Nevadans must remain in effect.”

Due to the improvements recognized in Emergency Directive 021, on June 26, 2020 this Court entered Administrative Order 2020-7, which significantly relaxed the restrictions that were

1 put into place by Administrative Order 2020-3 and permitted more in-person access. Thereafter,  
2 in the fall of 2020, Nevada, in general, and Washoe County, in particular, experienced a  
3 significant increase in COVID-19 cases. According to data released by the Washoe County  
4 Health District, the average new daily COVID-19 cases in Washoe County quadrupled from  
5 fewer than 100 cases per day in early October to more than 400 new cases per day in mid-  
6 November.

7 This Court responded to the escalating crisis by entering Administrative Order 2020-12,  
8 which tied Court operations to the “Truckee Meadows COVID Risk Meter,” which has been  
9 created by the Washoe County COVID Task Force and is available at [www.covidriskmeter.org](http://www.covidriskmeter.org).  
10 Pursuant to Administrative Order 2020-12, the Court was: (1) closed for all in-person access  
11 during any time where the COVID Risk Meter registered as “Very High” or “Severe”; (2) open  
12 for limited access during times where the COVID Risk Meter registered as “High”; and (3) open  
13 to the public when the COVID Risk Meter registered as “Moderate” or lower.

14 The state of the COVID-19 pandemic has improved markedly over the past several  
15 months. The rate of daily new infections in our region has decreased from a height of almost  
16 500 new cases per day in November 2020 to fewer than 50 new cases per day currently. This  
17 positive development has caused the COVID Risk Meter to regularly fluctuate between “High”  
18 and “Moderate” to the extent that it is no longer a useful barometer to gauge the degree to which  
19 the Court is open to the public.

20 Furthermore, the judges and staff members of Reno Justice Court have been offered the  
21 opportunity to receive COVID-19 vaccinations, and the COVID-19 vaccine is now available to  
22 everyone in Washoe County age 16 and older. The Court has substantially altered Court  
23 operations and improved Court technology to allow most Court cases to be heard remotely by  
24 videoconference (Zoom). The Court has, therefore, significantly reduced the number of  
25 individuals who need to make in-person Court appearances and will continue to conduct remote

1 Court proceedings whenever possible. Due to these positive developments, the Court is no longer  
2 tying Court operations to the COVID Risk Meter as set forth in Administrative Order 2020-12.

3 THEREFORE, and good cause appearing, the Court hereby ORDERS as follows:

4 (1) Administrative Order 2020-12 is rescinded and supplanted by the terms of this Order.

5 (2) All parties, counsel, and members of the general public are prohibited from entering  
6 Reno Justice Court without a mask or other appropriate face covering, unless and  
7 until there are no local or state-wide mandates requiring a face covering or until the  
8 Court rescinds this Order. Individuals are also prohibited from entering the Court if  
9 they have a body temperature in excess of 100.4°F, as determined by the courthouse  
10 Court Security Officers. The following other individuals are similarly prohibited  
11 from entering the Court:

12 a. Individuals who have been asked to quarantine or isolate by any doctor,  
13 hospital, or health agency.

14 b. Individuals who have an active case of COVID-19 or who have had close  
15 personal contact in the past 14 days with someone who has been diagnosed  
16 with COVID-19, unless the individual has been fully vaccinated against  
17 COVID-19 or tested negative for COVID-19 after having the contact.

18 c. Individuals who are currently experiencing symptoms consistent with  
19 COVID-19, including an unexplained fever, chills, persistent cough,  
20 headaches, body aches and/or shortness of breath.

21 (3) The Court is hereby open for all in-person access including any and all court  
22 proceedings and access to the Court's first-floor customer-service windows, subject  
23 to any occupancy and social-distancing requirements that are necessary to comply  
24 with any local or state-wide mandates/orders.

1 (4) Despite the Court’s opening as stated in Paragraph three (3) above, the Court will  
2 continue to hold criminal and civil hearings by remote means (Zoom) whenever  
3 possible, pursuant to the following:

4 a. Criminal trials and preliminary hearings will be set as in-person proceedings,  
5 unless the parties stipulate to, or the Court orders, a remote proceeding via  
6 Zoom. All other criminal hearings will be set as remote proceedings, but the  
7 parties may always request to appear in-person on a case-by-case basis. The  
8 Court will also consider requests for “hybrid” proceedings where some parties  
9 or witnesses appear in-person while others appear remotely via Zoom.

10 b. Trials in “formal” civil actions (those initiated by a formal complaint and  
11 summons) and small claims trials will be set as in-person proceedings, unless  
12 the parties stipulate to, or the Court orders, a remote proceeding via Zoom.  
13 All other civil proceedings (including all eviction hearings (other than cases  
14 filed as formal civil actions); temporary and extended protection order  
15 hearings; and supplemental hearings) will be set as remote hearings via Zoom,  
16 unless the parties stipulate to, or the Court orders, an in-person hearing. The  
17 Court will also consider requests for “hybrid” proceedings where some parties  
18 or witnesses appear in-person while others appear remotely via Zoom.

19 (5) Individuals who need to file documents in Court are strongly urged to do so by  
20 accessing the Court’s electronic filing system (for civil actions only) or by e-mailing  
21 an electronic copy of the document to the following e-mail addresses:

22 a. Civil cases: [RJCCivil@washoecounty.us](mailto:RJCCivil@washoecounty.us)

23 b. Criminal cases: [RJCCriminal@washoecounty.us](mailto:RJCCriminal@washoecounty.us)

24 c. Citation (traffic) cases: [RJCCitations@washoecounty.us](mailto:RJCCitations@washoecounty.us)

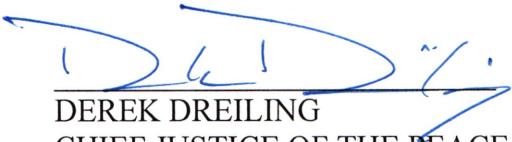
25 Any documents submitted to the Court for filing shall include a proof of service upon  
the other party(ies) to the case.

1 (6) The practice of automatically live-streaming all Court proceedings via YouTube to  
2 facilitate public and media access is hereby terminated. However, the video stream  
3 may be reinstated by the Court on a case-by-case basis if deemed necessary and  
4 appropriate by the presiding judge.

5 (7) Exceptions to this order may be made on a case-by-case basis upon proper application  
6 to the Court in order to facilitate the ends of justice.

7 (8) This Order shall remain in effect until it is modified or rescinded by a subsequent  
8 order.

9  
10 DATED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.

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13 DEREK DREILING  
14 CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE  
15 RENO JUSTICE COURT  
16 DEPARTMENT 1  
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