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AMANDA STANFORD  
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**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF PINAL**

BY AL  
DEPUTY

LIMITATION OF MUNICIPAL COURT )  
OPERATIONS DURING A PUBLIC ) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
HEALTH EMERGENCY )  
\_\_\_\_\_) 2020 - 00027

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Arizona has issued Administrative Order No. 2020-47 and No. 2020-48 addressing measures to be taken by the Judicial Branch to reduce the risk associated with the public health emergency currently facing Arizona due to the concern of the spread of COVID-19. The Administrative Order directs the presiding superior court judge of each county to determine how in-person proceedings are to be conducted in each of the county's court rooms under conditions that protect the health and safety of participants and the public.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that each municipal court judge in Pinal County will provide to the Presiding Judge of Superior Court, by close of business on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, the municipal court's plan, in writing, as to how it will conduct in-person court proceedings that protect health and safety, including potentially:

- (a) Limiting in-person courtroom contact as much as possible by using available technologies, including alternative means of filing, teleconferencing, video conferencing, and use of email and text messages.
- (b) Following CDC social distancing recommendations, considering the size of the court facility; requiring that courts not schedule multiple, simultaneous hearings in a number that prevents appropriate social distancing, with no scheduling of more than 10 persons at one time; and requiring all scheduled participants to notify the court of any COVID-19 symptoms or suspected exposure and to refrain from coming to the courthouse.
- (c) Limiting any required in-person proceedings to attorneys, parties, victims, witnesses, jurors, court personnel, and other necessary persons, where necessary to maintain the recommended social distancing within a court facility.
- (d) Liberally granting continuances and additional accommodations to parties, witnesses, attorneys, jurors and others with business before the courts who are at high risk of illness from COVID-19.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that if a municipal court's plan requires the adoption or modification of a local rule, the plan will identify the proposed adoption or modification and a request will be made accordingly to the Presiding Judge of Superior Court.

**IT IS FUTHER ORDERED** that prior to any municipal court physically closing its doors to the public, the municipal court's judge will first confer with the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2020.



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Honorable Stephen F. McCarville  
Superior Court Presiding Judge

Original: Filed with the Clerk  
Copies To: Municipal Court Judges  
Dave Byers, Administrative Office of the Courts  
Todd D. Zweig, Superior Court Administrator  
Katrina Solis, Limited Jurisdiction Program Manager