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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 APRIL 4, 2021.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-05

[CLOSURE OF SJDC THROUGH APRIL 4, 2021]

[CONTINUING CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JURY TRIALS TO APRIL, 2021]

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 2/08/2021);

This AO is intended to be consistent with the Declaration of Emergency in Nevada and to effectuate

1 Governor Sisolak’s issued Directives resulting from the Declaration of Emergency and subsequent
2 renewals or extensions of said Directives;

3 WHEREAS the Chief Judge continues to enter Administrative Orders (“AO(s)”) on court
4 matters during the COVID-19 pandemic as it ensues. All AOs are available at [washoecourts.com/
5 Main/AdminOrders](http://washoecourts.com/Main/AdminOrders) (last visited 2/8/2021);
6

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

12 WHEREAS this AO is also intended to be consistent with the Center for Disease Control and
13 Prevention guidelines;²
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15 WHEREAS on November 10, 2020, Governor Sisolak made his “Stay at Home 2.0,”
16 announcement (“SH 2.0”); gov.nv.gov/news/Press/Press_Releases/11/10/2020 (last visited
17 11/12/2020); @GovSisolak, TWITTER (Nov. 10, 2020, 6:00 – 6:17 p.m.), [https://twitter.com/
18 GovSisolak/status/1326345073043279873](https://twitter.com/GovSisolak/status/1326345073043279873);

19 WHEREAS in accordance with Governor Sisolak’s SH 2.0, during this time it remains critical
20 for community members to stay at home, telework, wear masks, wash hands, among other stated
21 prevention activities, to reduce the recent increase in COVID-19 cases;
22

23 WHEREAS on November 23, 2020, Governor Sisolak entered Declaration of Emergency for
24 Directive 035 (“Directive 035”) which again imposed more restrictive measures, including limiting
25 gatherings to fifty (50) persons or twenty-five percent (25%) of the listed fire code capacity;
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27 ¹ [NCJFCJ.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NCJFCJ_Statement_Regarding_Court_Safety_COVID-
19_Final.pdf](http://NCJFCJ.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NCJFCJ_Statement_Regarding_Court_Safety_COVID-19_Final.pdf) (last visited 10/27/2020).

28 ² The CDC guidelines are available at cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncor/community/organizations (last visited
11/12/2020).

1 [https://gov.nv.gov/News/ Emergency_Orders/2020/2020-11-24_- COVID19_Emergency_](https://gov.nv.gov/News/Emergency_Orders/2020/2020-11-24_-COVID19_Emergency_)
2 [Declaration_Directive_035/](#) (last accessed 12/16/2020). Section 20 of Directive 035 provides, “This
3 Directive shall remain in effect until terminated by a subsequent Directive.” Directive 035, §20.
4 Governor Sisolak advised Directive 035 will remain in effect until at least January 15, 2021.
5 [Gov.nv.gov/News/Press/20/20201213/extendsmoratorium](https://gov.nv.gov/News/Press/20/20201213/extendsmoratorium) (“extends Statewide ‘Pause’”) (last visited
6 12/16/2021). On January 11, 2021, Governor Sisolak advised Directive 035 will remain in effect for
7 thirty (30) days (until February 14, 2021) but will be reviewed and will be changed if warranted.
8 [Gov.nv.gov/News/Press/2021/Today_at_5_pm_Governor_Sisolak_to_provide_COVID19_mitigation](https://gov.nv.gov/News/Press/2021/Today_at_5_pm_Governor_Sisolak_to_provide_COVID19_mitigation)
9 [_vaccination_update/](#)Then Click on: WHERE: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3DFs26eOMbAbY7XPqsereQ)
10 [UC3DFs26eOMbAbY7XPqsereQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3DFs26eOMbAbY7XPqsereQ) (last visited 1/13/2021). **To date no directives have been issued**
11 **in 2021. Directive 035 remains in effect at this time.**

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

19 WHEREAS as of February 9, 2021, Washoe County reported 8,907 active COVID-19 cases
20 and 87 as the seven-day moving daily average for new COVID-19 positive cases.
21 [https://gis.washoecounty.us/ agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard](https://gis.washoecounty.us/agolHost?id=COVID19Dashboard) (last visited 2/10/2020).

23 WHEREAS the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Nevada’s Playbook for Statewide
24 Operations V3, last updated January 12, 2021 (“Playbook V3”), establishes a strategy for distribution
25 and administration of vaccines. The Playbook V3 also establishes a phased approach to COVID-19
26 vaccination and identifies prioritization lanes for individuals to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

27 <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NEVADA-19-VACCINE->
28

1 PLAYBOOK-V3-1.pdf (last visited 2/10/2021),

2 WHEREAS as of February 5, 2021, the Regional Information Center for Washoe County
3 reported 58, 873 (14,593 second dose) COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered.

4 [https://washoelife.washoecounty.us/news/weekly-covid19-vaccine-community-newsletter-feb-5-](https://washoelife.washoecounty.us/news/weekly-covid19-vaccine-community-newsletter-feb-5-a8ba-e1546.html)
5 [a8ba-e1546.html](https://washoelife.washoecounty.us/news/weekly-covid19-vaccine-community-newsletter-feb-5-a8ba-e1546.html) (last visited 2/10/2021).

7 WHEREAS Trial Flight (“TF”) 7 (Criminal) is set to commence March 8, 2021; and,

8 WHEREAS it is critical for the SJDC to address the spread of COVID-19 by taking action to
9 restrict contact among members of the SJDC, staff, counsel, parties, the public and our valuable
10 community partners, while waiting for and after vaccines become available to participants.

11 **Accordingly, and good cause appearing therefor, this Administrative Order 2021-05**
12 **follows:**

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

15 By prior AOs and AO 2020-05(E), the Chief Judge vacated criminal and civil jury trials
16 through March 7, 2021.

17 It remains critical for the SJDC to take appropriate measures to reduce opportunities for
18 COVID-19 to spread and numbers to increase by restricting contact among members of the SJDC,
19 staff, counsel, parties, the public and our valuable community partners while waiting for and
20 receiving inoculations of the COVID-19 vaccine.

21 **Accordingly, the SJDC, including the General Jurisdiction 75 Court Street facility and**
22 **the Family Division 1 S. Sierra facility, will remain temporarily closed, entrance will be limited**
23 **through April 4, 2021. In-person scheduled proceedings, other than jury trials, will proceed by**
24 **audio/visual platform in lieu of in-person proceedings, through April 4, 2021.**

1 The trials (criminal) set in TF 8 [April 5, 2021] remain as set. Trials in TF 7 [March 8,
2 2021] are continued to TF 8, unless otherwise ordered by the assigned department.

3 The SJDC in collaboration with the Jury Trial Working Group has developed a Trial
4 Stack (“TS”) trial model for civil trials. The trials (civil) set in March, 2021, are continued to
5 TS 1 [April 6, 2021]. A separate AO detailing the TS model will issue.
6

7 As the SJDC continues, through the TF and TS models, to maximize its availability for
8 the maximum number of trials, no requests for trial dates certain will be entertained by the
9 Chief Judge until allowed by subsequent AO.
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11 This SJDC court closure does not affect the portions of the 1 S. Sierra Street facility that are
12 not used by the Family Division of the SJDC, i.e., Reno Justice Court and Reno Municipal Court
13 facilities.

14 Essential staff, as determined by the Chief Judge and Court Administrator, will be allowed on
15 site and must adhere to SJDC protocols and policies regarding masks, temperature checks and all
16 preventative procedures currently in place. Other access shall only be granted in extraordinary
17 circumstances by the Chief Judge.
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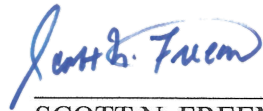
19 Access to the Second Judicial District Court will continue by electronic filing, telephone calls,
20 live chat via the Court’s website (www.washoecourts.us), physical mail of which distribution may be
21 delayed, and audiovisual hearings conducted in accordance with the Nevada Rules Governing
22 Appearance by Audiovisual Transmission Equipment, Part IX via Zoom.us platform. Public access
23 to court proceedings is available for viewing and listening through the link on the SJDC website, on-
24 line hearings, by department ([www.washoecourts.us/Online Hearings/\[Department\]/Click here to
25 view on Zoom.us](http://www.washoecourts.us/Online%20Hearings/[Department]/Click%20here%20to%20view%20on%20Zoom.us) (last visited 1/13/2021) and also by accessing Zoom.us and entering the applicable
26 webinar/meeting number.
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1 Protection order applications and the SJDC drop box in the lobby of 1 S. Sierra will remain
2 available and accessible during this closure.

3 This AO shall be reviewed at appropriate intervals, as determined by the Chief Judge, based
4 on the changing circumstances relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.
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6 IT IS SO ORDERED.

7 DATED this 10th day of February, 2021.
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11 SCOTT N. FREEMAN
12 CHIEF JUDGE
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