

1 Case No. 25446

2
3
4
5 NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT,
6 EAST FORK JUSTICE COURT, TAHOE JUSTICE COURT
7 DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEVADA

8 IN THE MATTER OF)
9 The Ninth Judicial District)
10 Court, East Fork Justice Court)
11 Tahoe Justice Court’s Response)
12 to Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19))
13 _____)

Administrative Order: 20-01

14 District Court Rule 5 and Rule 1 (a-b) of the Rules of Practice for the Ninth Judicial
15 District Court of the State of Nevada charge the duly elected Judges of the Ninth Judicial
16 District Court with various responsibilities, such as supervising the administrative business
17 of the district court, ensuring the quality and continuity of court services, supervising the
18 court calendar, reassigning cases as convenience or necessity requires, assuring the court’s
19 duties are timely and orderly performed, and otherwise facilitating the business of the district
20 court.

21 Rule 83 and Rule 84(b) of the Justice Court Rules of Civil Procedure of the State of
22 Nevada charge the duly elected Justices of the Peace of Douglas County with various
23 responsibilities, such as supervising the administrative business of their courts, ensuring the
24 quality and continuity of their court services, supervising their court calendar, reassigning
25 cases as convenience or necessity requires, assuring the court’s duties are timely and orderly
26 performed, and otherwise facilitating the business of the justice court.

27 On March 12, 2020, Governor Steve Sisolak declared a state of emergency in Nevada
28 in response to the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). Given the
severity of the risk posed to the public by COVID-19, and after consultation with the Nevada

1 Supreme Court Chief Justice Kristina Pickering, the Judges of the Douglas County Judiciary
2 have determined that alterations to court procedure are necessary for the protection of the
3 community.

4 During this time, the District Court, East Fork Justice Court and the Tahoe Justice
5 Court will continue to accept filings and continue to operate managing cases within the
6 parameters set forth in this order.

7 Effective March 17, 2020, all currently scheduled non-essential Court hearings are
8 ordered to be conducted by video or telephonic means; decided on the papers; or rescheduled
9 unless otherwise directed by a District Court Judge or Justice of the Peace.

10 At this time, essential case types and hearings will continue to be heard through in-
11 person appearances, although appearance by alternative means under Nevada Supreme Court
12 Rule Part IX is encouraged when possible. Essential case types and hearings include the
13 following:

- 14 1. In-custody criminal sentencings, bail motions, and probation revocation hearings
15 until arrangements can be made to hear these matters by alternative means;
- 16 2. Criminal arraignments;
- 17 3. Civil commitment cases;
- 18 4. Guardianship matters except for compliance related hearings which include annual
19 accountings. Given the vulnerability of the guardianship populations, all protected
20 persons shall appear by alternative means;
- 21 5. Domestic temporary or extended protection orders;
- 22 6. Juvenile delinquency matters;
- 23 7. Abuse and neglect preliminary protective hearings;
- 24 8. High-risk protective orders;
- 25 9. Civil temporary restraining orders and preliminary/permanent injunctive relief
26 hearings.
- 27 10. Probate petitions for orders of cremation.
- 28 11. Other than jury trials, case-by-case exceptions may be ordered at the discretion of

1 a District Court Judge or Justice of the Peace.

2 12. Eviction Proceedings, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

3 The Douglas County Sheriff's Office is ordered not to arrest any person on a traffic-
4 related warrant for failure to appear or contempt of court, where bail is less than \$900, or
5 when the traffic warrant is more than 36 months old, as issued by the East Fork Justice Court
6 or Tahoe Township Justice Court. Instead, law enforcement is ordered to issue a new
7 citation for failure to appear or contempt of court pursuant to NRS 199.340 and direct that
8 the defendant appear at a future date. This provision does not apply to any charges of DUI,
9 reckless driving, battery that constitutes domestic violence, or crimes of violence.

10 All jury trials, civil and criminal, scheduled in District Court, East Fork Justice Court
11 and Tahoe Justice Court for the next 30 days will be suspended and will be rescheduled as
12 the court calendar allows. No summonsed prospective jurors are to appear. Any currently
13 ongoing jury trial will finish.

14 This order shall operate to stay trial in civil cases for purposes of NRCP 41(e). The
15 time period of any continuance entered as a result of this order shall be excluded under for
16 purposes of calculating speedy trial under NRS 178.556(1) and NRS 174.511 as the Court
17 finds the that ends of justice served by taking that action outweigh the interests of the parties
18 and the public in a speedy trial. Absent further order of the Court or any individual judge, the
19 period of exclusion shall be from March 16, 2020 through April 17, 2020. The Court may
20 extend the period of exclusion as circumstances warrant.

21 Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control has advised people to take precautions
22 and that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure. As a result, the Court
23 Administrator is ordered to post a notice at the entrance of all court facilities advising the
24 following people that they may not enter the court facility:

- 25 1. Persons who in the last 14 days have traveled to a country designated as a Level 3
26 travel health notice according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
27 Currently those countries include: China, Iran, South Korea, Austria, Belgium, Czech
28 Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland,

1 Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway,
2 Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Monaco, San
3 Marino, Vatican City, United Kingdom and Ireland. The list is subject to change by
4 the CDC.

5 2. Persons who reside or have close contact with someone who has travelled to any
6 foreign country above within the last 14 days;

7 3. Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health
8 agency;

9 4. Persons who have been diagnosed with coronavirus or who has had contact in the
10 past 14 days with anyone who has been diagnosed with CoVID-19; or

11 5. Persons with unexplained fever, cough or shortness of breath.

12 Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by the
13 Constable.

14 The Court Administrator is also ordered to establish a customer service number in
15 cooperation with the Ninth Judicial District Court, East Fork Justice Court and Tahoe Justice
16 Court to assist all persons unable to enter the court facility because of exposure or illness.

17 If a person is unable to appear in court because of the restrictions above, the person
18 may call District Court at 775-782-9820, East Fork Justice Court at 775-782-9955 or the
19 Tahoe Justice Court at 775-586-7200 to speak to a customer service representative for
20 assistance in rescheduling their court appearance, arranging for appearance by alternative
21 means or provide other information based on the circumstances of the appearance.

22
23
24
25
26
27
28

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

This order shall be reviewed no later than every 30 days and shall continue until modified or rescinded by a subsequent order.

Entered this _____ day of March 2020.

KRISTINA PICKERING
Chief Justice
Nevada Supreme Court

NATHAN TOD YOUNG
District Judge
Ninth Judicial District Court

THOMAS W. GREGORY
District Judge
Ninth Judicial District Court

RICHARD GLASSON
Judge
Tahoe Justice Court

CASSANDRA JONES
Judge
East Fork Justice Court