

Due to concerns regarding the spread of COVID-19 in the general population, and pursuant to Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2020-48 and Mohave County Superior Court Administrative Order No. 2020-13, in order to reduce the risk associated with this public health emergency, the following directives are being immediately implemented by this division and shall remain in effect until concerns regarding COVID-19 have resolved:

1. All jury trials shall be suspended until at least April 17, 2020, and all Rule 8 time-limits are being suspended until this date with additional extensions to be made if necessary.
2. **No in-person court proceedings will be taking place** until concerns regarding COVID-19 have resolved. All court appearances of all participants will take place telephonically or by video as detailed below. If a party is unwilling to waive his/her right to be physically present, the hearing will be continued.
3. The Court will liberally grant motions to continue for parties with cases before this court. If you are requesting a continuance, please file a written motion in advance of the hearing.
4. Attorneys shall inform all parties of these policies and advise them not to come to court until COVID-19 concerns have resolved.

In Custody Participants:

5. Defendants shall appear by video conference for all court hearings.
6. For change of plea hearings an in-custody-defendant will appear by video conference, and the defendant's attorney may appear either telephonically or (if permitted) at the jail with the defendant. If the Defendant needs to confer with his attorney during the proceeding, the Court will take a recess and allow Defendant to confer privately with his/her attorney.
7. For in-custody defendants doing judgment and sentencing hearings, the Court will forward as many documents as is feasible to the jail for the defendant's signature or fingerprint. These will be taken in the presence of a detention officer. For any documents where fingerprints or signatures are unable to be obtained prior to sentencing, the Court will forward those documents to the jail after the hearing for the defendant's signature or fingerprint. The Court will order that the defendant shall neither be released or transported to the department of corrections until the defendant has signed the documents and/or provided the fingerprint.

Out of Custody Participants:

8. All participants who are not in custody (defendants, attorneys, victims, news media, etc.) shall appear telephonically. All who will be appearing telephonically should make arrangements with the Court's Judicial Assistant.
9. Until the issues related to the COVID-19 resolve, the Court is willing to waive personal appearances of out-of-custody Defendants on cases that will simply be continued or set for another hearing, as long as the Defendant's attorney avows that the attorney has good contact information for the Defendant and will notify the Defendant of the future hearings that are set.

10. Change of plea hearings may take place by telephone. If a defendant needs to confer with his attorney during the hearing, the Court will take a recess to allow this to take place. When the judgment and sentencing hearing takes place, the Court will verify that it was the Defendant who entered the plea agreement.
11. No judgment and sentencing hearings will take place for out-of-custody defendants until the COVID-19 concerns have been resolved. For this reason, these hearings will be continued. The Court's judicial assistant will coordinate with the attorneys for each side to set all continued hearings.