



Judicial Branch of Arizona

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maricopa Superior Court Prohibits Most In-Person Proceedings; Restricts Public Attendance at In-Person Court Hearings; Cancels Sitting Grand Juries through Wednesday, April 8, 2020

PHOENIX- Effective Wednesday, March 25, 2020, the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County will prohibit physical access to all Superior Court buildings through April 8, 2020 as outlined in Presiding Judge Joseph C. Welty's [Administrative Order 2020-043](#). The Order restricts access to Superior Court unless:

- an event is constitutionally or statutorily required to be held in-person, in which case only those participating in the specific event may attend. This includes parties, witnesses, victims, sheriff's deputies, detention officers, law enforcement officers, parents in juvenile delinquency matters and lawyers. Any person intending to be present at a court proceeding who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, has exposure to COVID-19, or has [symptoms of COVID-19](#) as defined by the U.S. Center for Disease Control must contact via [telephone](#) or email the assigned division to arrange to appear telephonically, have their appearance waived, or have the proceeding reset;
- the Court is located inside the Valleywise Behavioral Health Facilities or the Arizona State Hospital;
- the person is an employee of the Branch, Clerk of Superior Court, The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, or another county agency housed within a court building;
- the person is a contractor or other person authorized by the Presiding Judge to enter the court facility for exceptions listed in the Order.



Judge Welty also issued [Administrative Order 2020-045](#) which suspends all current sitting state and county grand juries between March 25 and April 8, 2020. New petit and grand jury selection has already been halted through April 17, 2020 by [order of the Arizona Supreme Court](#). Members of the public will continue to receive summonses for jury service because postcards notifying prospective jurors are sent four to six weeks in advance. Persons summonsed for a date later than April 17, 2020 are strongly encouraged to reply as soon as possible so the Court has their current contact information in the event future electronic alerts are sent.

The utilization of existing technology, combined with the extraordinary efforts of Branch employees, has resulted thus far in a 60% reduction of visitors to all Court locations by close of business Monday, March 23, 2020. The Maricopa Superior Court, our nation's fourth largest trial court, announced a 40% reduction in foot traffic at the end of last week as early measures to safeguard against COVID19 took effect. The court will continue to hold telephonic hearings and remain available to process all case types and non-appearance proceedings.

For more information on operations of the Judicial Branch in Maricopa County during the public health emergency, please visit <https://superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/covid-19/>. Requests by the media to appear by telephone or in-person at a proceeding are being fielded by the Court's Public Information Officers via email at courtpio@JBAZMC.maricopa.gov.

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“The Judicial Branch of Arizona is committed
to excellence and the principles inherent in the rule of law
... every person, every day, every time.”