



Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County

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Court Expands Public Access to Facilities

Full public access to court, other Judicial Branch offices returns July 19

PHOENIX (July 14, 2021) – During the pandemic, access to Judicial Branch facilities – including Superior Court locations and probation department offices – was limited in an effort to protect the health and welfare of staff and those conducting business with the court.

As of July 19, those restrictions will be lifted, allowing full public access to all Judicial Branch facilities in Maricopa County. Health checks will be required before entry, as well as masks in designated areas.

“Despite the global pandemic, the Judicial Branch in Maricopa County has remained open and has continued to fulfill its Constitutional responsibilities through a strategy that combined the use of technology with limited in-person operations to reduce the number of people in our courthouses,” said Maricopa County Superior Court Presiding Judge Joseph C. Welty. “Based on the current data on progress our community has made in fighting the Coronavirus, it’s time to expand our public access while maintaining appropriate health and safety measures.”

The courts never closed. From in-person hearings and trials to jury service, court operations continued during the pandemic with strict procedures in place to secure the health, safety and welfare of the public, including Judicial Branch employees. As a result, public access has been limited since March 2020 to those conducting business with the court. Those restrictions will be relaxed July 19, although masking, social distancing and enhanced cleaning protocols will remain in place.

While many courtrooms will be reopening for public access, the Maricopa County Superior Court will also continue the use of live web streaming of virtual proceedings. The continued ability to hold virtual proceedings for certain types of hearings promotes convenience, reduces traffic and pollution, and saves litigants, attorneys and witnesses time and money. However, many proceedings will not be streamed in favor of having in-person hearings. Those with an interest in observing a case are urged to check the online calendar for information on if a livestream will be available.

At the beginning of each day, the online hearing calendar – available at www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/calendar – will feature information indicating if the hearing will be in person or livestreamed, providing the public with an opportunity to make the necessary plans on how they can observe the proceedings. At the time of the hearing, an icon will appear on the webpage providing access to the livestream; refreshing the page may be necessary.

For more information, visit <https://superiorcourt.maricopa.gov>.

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