

**IN THE COURT OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY  
IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA**

In the Matter of:

SUSPENSION OF IN-PERSON COURT  
HEARINGS FROM JANUARY 31, 2022 TO  
FEBRUARY 11, 2022, IN RESPONSE TO  
THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, 75%  
REDUCTION IN WORK FORCE AND  
QUARANTINING OF IN-CUSTODY  
DEFENDANTS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 2022-04

The Gila River Indian Community Court (Court) issued Administrative Order No. 2022-01 on January 7, 2022, suspending certain in-person hearings from January 10, 2022 to January 28, 2022, in response to the rise in Coronavirus cases and spread of the Omicron Variant.

On January 10, 2022, the Community government transitioned to a 75% reduction in work force due to the “drastic increase of cases and expectation of continued increase.” The work force reduction is effective January 11, 2022 to January 29, 2022.

The Court issued Administrative Order No. 2022-02 on January 11, 2022, suspending all but essential Court hearings from January 11, 2022 to January 28, 2022. The Court ordered that all non-essential Court hearings were to be continued (rescheduled) during this time.

The Department of Rehabilitation and Supervision (DRS) announced on January 24, 2022, that all in-custody defendants are to be quarantined until February 22, 2022.

The Community government announced on January 25, 2022, that the 75% work force reduction shall continue until February 11, 2022.

The Court continues to recognize that Court personnel and the public are at an increased risk of exposure to the Coronavirus due to the Omicron Variant. However, the Court acknowledges that repeated continuances of Court hearings result in delays to the parties and hinders the timely administration of justice. The Court can address Court cases safely by converting most hearings into telephonic or virtual hearings.

**IT IS ORDERED** that all criminal, civil and juvenile court hearings shall be held by telephone or virtual (video) teleconferencing with the exception of those hearings listed in this Order. This Order affects hearings scheduled between January 31, 2022 and February 11, 2022. The parties and their attorneys/advocates shall appear by telephone or virtually for these hearings. All persons are discouraged from attending Court in-person hearings during this period.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the parties and their attorneys/advocates may motion to continue their hearings in order for those hearings to be held in-person after the expiration of this Order. Self-represented parties (parties without an attorney or advocate) may complete a motion form at [https://www.gilariver.org/view/download.php/government/judicial-branch/user\\_file\\_19](https://www.gilariver.org/view/download.php/government/judicial-branch/user_file_19).

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the following hearings shall be in-person:

1. Adult Criminal Arraignments.
2. Preliminary Hearings.
3. Bail Hearings.
4. Changes of Plea Hearings for In-Custody Defendants who are eligible for immediate release. Counsel may motion the Court for a Change of Plea Hearing.
5. Revocation Hearings for In-Custody Defendants who are eligible for immediate release. Counsel may motion the Court for a Revocation Hearing.
6. Initial and Final Status Conferences related to Jury Trials.
7. Jury Trials.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that all in-custody criminal defendants shall appear by telephone or virtual conference. Defense counsels are encouraged to consult with their in-custody clients by making arrangements with the Department of Rehabilitation and Supervision.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that a trial judge may grant an in-person hearing after consultation with counsel and upon a finding that exceptional circumstances exist. In-person hearings for in-custody defendants are contingent upon the quarantine restrictions of the Department of Rehabilitation and Supervision. No in-custody defendant displaying COVID symptoms shall be transported to the Court.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that jury trials shall be held as previously scheduled. Jurors summonsed for jury duty shall appear unless excused or their jury group canceled. The Department of Rehabilitation and Supervision shall conduct a COVID screening of in-custody defendants scheduled for jury trial. No in-custody defendant displaying COVID symptoms shall be transported to the Court.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that adult criminal arraignments shall be held at 2:00 PM for the duration of this Order. Advisory defense counsel may consult with in-custody defendants by virtual conference in Courtroom Six beginning at 1:30 PM.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that attorneys/advocates and parties are strongly encouraged to submit documents through the Court's public electronic mailbox, [courtpublicmailbox@gric.nsn.us](mailto:courtpublicmailbox@gric.nsn.us), or fax, 520-562-9867.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that trial judges presiding over criminal proceedings may take such actions consistent with this Order as may be lawful and appropriate to ensure fairness of the proceedings and preserve the rights of the parties. Trial judges and judicial personnel may take action as necessary to implement the provisions of this Order.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Order expires on February 11, 2022 unless renewed by further Order.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that certain provisions in Administrative Order Nos. 2022-01 and 2022-02 are superseded by this Order.

**DATED** this 26th day of January, 2022.

SEAL

/s/ Anthony J. Hill  
Honorable Anthony J. Hill, Chief Judge