

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

In the Matter of:

COURT OPERATIONS DURING A  
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 2021-03

Due to the spread of the Delta Variant of the coronavirus, the Governor of the Gila River Indian Community (Community) issued Comprehensive Executive Order No. 12 (Executive Order) regarding the coronavirus pandemic on August 6, 2021. The Executive Order declared there is a continuing public health state of emergency within the Community.

The Community Court remains open to serve the public. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic and public health emergency, certain limitations and changes in court practices and operations are necessary during the duration of the Executive Order.

**IT IS ORDERED** that the public shall wear face masks at all times in the courthouse.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the public shall undergo screening at the courthouse entrance. This screening shall consist of answering a screening questionnaire provided by the Tribal Health Department, body temperature check and a face mask requirement. Any person who refuses to cooperate with or who does not pass the screening protocol or refuses to wear a mask shall be excluded from entering the courthouse.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** all participants in court proceedings, including attorneys/advocates, parties, victims, witnesses, jurors, court personnel and other necessary persons shall not enter the courthouse due to COVID-19 diagnosis, symptoms, exposure notification by any public health agency or exposure or close contact to anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 or experiencing symptoms. Such participants shall make alternative arrangements to participate in court proceedings.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** any in-person proceedings are limited to attorneys/advocates, parties, victims, witnesses, jurors, court personnel and other necessary persons. Non-essential persons shall not enter the courtroom and shall not be permitted to wait in the courthouse. No more than 15 persons are permitted in a courtroom at any single time. All persons shall be socially distant.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that attorneys/advocates and out of custody defendants may telephonically appear after notifying the clerk of the court by electronic mail prior to the hearing. Attorneys/advocates and defendants shall provide a contact number and shall be ready to appear telephonically at the hearing time. No formal written motion is required to appear telephonically.

Attorneys/advocates and defendants who fail to notify the clerk of the court of their telephonic appearance shall appear in person.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that attorneys/advocates and out of custody defendants shall appear in person for the following essential hearings: arraignments, bail hearings, preliminary hearings, changes of plea, jury trials, sentencing hearings and all hearings that set a jury trial date.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that attorneys/advocates are strongly encouraged to submit motions to continue when it appears a hearing may not be productive (not because a party is unprepared). Judges are encouraged to grant continuances and make accommodations, when necessary.

**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 the Court continue to issue marriage licenses. A judge may perform a marriage ceremony at the courthouse with no more than 15 persons present with proper social distancing and face masks.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that probation officers are authorized to use social distancing and technology of all types to supervise those on criminal and juvenile probation, including, where appropriate, for contacts with such individuals.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that personal service under Gila River Indian Community Civil Code § 4.307(F) is suspended until further notice. The clerk of the court shall use alternative forms of service. Personal service may be made upon a department, entity or corporation of the Community.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that judicial personnel may take action as necessary to implement the provisions of this Order.

**DATED** this 16th day of August, 2021.

SEAL

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