

NEWS RELEASE

Pinal County Superior Court
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Using Face Masks in Pinal County Courts

FLORENCE – In early May, Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Brutinel issued Administrative Order 2020-75, updated and replaced by Administrative Order 2020-79, providing Arizona’s courts and the public with direction on returning to in-court operations after limited operations in response to COVID-19. The Order includes direction for in-person proceedings, empaneling juries, limiting access to courthouses and courtrooms, implementing social distancing, and using technology to continue court operations. Similar restrictions are in place in the courts in Pinal County.

Stephen F. McCarville, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court stated, “During the public health crisis, courts in Pinal County continue to provide necessary services while taking precautions to protect the public, stakeholders and staff.”

Beginning June 1, 2020, the public, staff, and all who enter courts in Pinal County will need to bring and wear a protective face covering. Presiding Judge McCarville is authorized to take the steps needed locally, and consistent with health department guidelines, to ensure access to justice while reducing exposure to the spread of COVID-19. Local courts do not have funds to provide masks for all who enter the courts. As a result, customers may be turned away and parties who are denied entry may need to appear remotely at a court proceeding or make other arrangements.

As courts in Pinal County begin to return to in-person business, staff and the public will be required to wear personal protective equipment and courts will require screening for illness. As a matter of public safety, particularly for those with fragile medical conditions, Arizona’s courts are authorized to prohibit entry to courthouses by those who do not meet the screening requirements.

When the public is not permitted to attend a public court proceeding, every effort will be made to provide video or audio access, unless the proceedings are closed, meaning not open to the public.

For more information, see the Superior Court's website and the COVID-19 information page at <https://www.pinalcountyz.gov/judicial/Pages/home.aspx>. Also, see Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Order 2020-79 at www.azcourts.gov/Portals/22/admorder/Orders20/2020-79FINAL.pdf. The Administrative Office of the Courts maintains a COVID-19 information page online at <https://www.azcourts.gov/covid19/> and in Spanish at <https://www.azcourts.gov/covid19/Covid-19-Information-and-Updates/COVID-19-espaol>, with updates posted on the Arizona Supreme Court's social media outlets, noted below.

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