

# JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE NAVAJO NATION

JOANN B. JAYNE  
Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation

ELEANOR SHIRLEY  
Associate Justice, Navajo Supreme Court

TINA TSINIGINE  
Associate Justice, Navajo Supreme Court



## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

P.O. Box 520 □ Window Rock, Arizona 86515  
Telephone 928-871-7669 □ Fax 928-871-6866

### ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 21-2020

---

#### IN THE MATTER OF COURT OPERATIONS IN THE COURTS OF THE NAVAJO NATION DURING THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

The Navajo Nation is experiencing the devastating effects of Covid-19. Even as our communities struggle against the current pandemic the Judicial Branch has obligations to the community. We must not lose sight of our mission and its importance particularly to vulnerable members of our community.

Our staff members have skills and abilities that are necessary to accomplish our mission even in this time of challenge. We respect for our staff, hold them in high regard, and have obligations to treat them in a way that shows our compassion. We must find a way to balance our duties to the People and our duties and obligations to our staff. The Judicial Branch must continue to protect our employees and the public while providing essential services;

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the following individuals are deemed to be Executive Staff for the purpose of this Administrative Order:

Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation, Associate Justices of the Navajo Nation, District Court Judges, Judicial Hearing Officers, Court Administrators, Judicial Staff Assistant, Government Relations Officer, Administrative Service Officer, Supreme Court Clerk, Administrative Director of the Courts, Grants Administrator, Director of Human Resources, Human Resources Specialist, Financial Services Manager, Financial Technicians, Attorneys including Staff Attorneys, Chief Probation Officer, Senior Probation Officers, Peacemaking Coordinator, Bi-Cultural Training Specialist, Automation & Information Technology Manager, Systems & Programming Manager, Programmer Support Specialist, Computer Operations Analyst, Automation & Information Services Specialist, and Senior Building Maintenance Worker;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Executive Staff are authorized to telecommute until May 29, 2020 at 5:00pm;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all other Judicial Branch employees are placed on administrative paid leave, including temporary and part-time employees until May 29, 2020 at 5:00pm;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED all Judicial Branch employees on administrative paid leave may be called upon for essential services to the Judicial Branch during this time period as needed and directed by their immediate supervisor;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that those called upon are subject to the directive for minimal staffing as laid out in Administrative Order 14-2020, Judicial Branch Continuity of Operations Plan, and current guidance from public health organizations;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED all Judicial Branch employees telecommuting will continue to submit daily reports to their immediate supervisor during this time period;

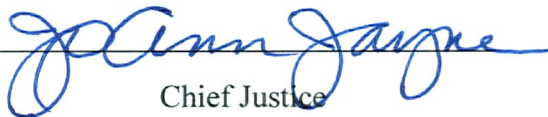
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED Judicial Branch employees shall wear masks or cloth face coverings consistent with current guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) while in Judicial Branch Facilities at all times, with no exceptions;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED all Judicial Branch facilities shall remain locked at all times, the only exception is for essential employees. Judicial Branch employees shall continue to provide essential services to the People through electronic and teleconference means to maximize safety for the public and Judicial Branch employees;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this order shall remain in effect until amended or withdrawn;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to 7 N.N.C. § 371, this Administrative Order is approved.

Dated this 16 day of April, 2020.

  
Chief Justice