

# JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE NAVAJO NATION

JOANN B. JAYNE  
Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation

ELEANOR SHIRLEY  
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Associate Justice, Navajo Supreme Court



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### ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 15-2020

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#### **IN THE MATTER OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH ADOPTION OF A CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION DURING THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY**

The Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation, with concurrence by Justice Eleanor Shirley and Justice Tina Tsinigine, issued Administrative Order 14-2020 on March 24, 2020 to provide further guidance to the Judicial Branch in light of the evolving public health emergency.

The Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020 through Executive Order 001-20. Later, the Navajo Nation implemented a shelter in place order on March 20, 2020 to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 but excluded court personnel as they are deemed essential employees.

The Judicial Branch drafted a Continuity of Operations Plan to ensure continued operations of essential functions of its courts and programs during emergencies or disaster.

The Judicial Conference approved the Continuity of Operations Plan on March 27, 2020 pursuant to Resolution Number JB-MA-01-2020.

IT IS ORDERED that prior orders directed by the Chief Justice since the declaration of this public health emergency shall remain in effect until modified or withdrawn;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if an employee comes into contact with an individual that has tested positive or is presumed by a health care official to be a presumptive positive for COVID-19, the employee shall immediately, in writing, notify Court Administrator or Program Manager as well as the Human Resource Director – the written notification must identify who the employee is, the individual who was tested positive and the time, date, and duration of contact;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that employees on administrative on-call paid leave are subject to recall at any time and failure to be available may result in disciplinary action;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Continuity of Operations Plan recommended by the Judicial Conference pursuant to Resolution Number JB-MA-01-2020 is adopted;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the Continuity of Operations Plan shall be implemented immediately for the purposes of the COVID-19 State of Emergency;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Administrative Director of Courts is the Continuity of Operations Plan Coordinator for purposes of implementing and executing the Continuity of Operations Plan for the COVID-19 State of Emergency; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Continuity of Operations Plan Coordinator shall designate the Continuity of Operations Planning Team for this implementation.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 27 day of March, 2020.

  
Chief Justice