

1
2 IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF RENO TOWNSHIP
3 COUNTY OF WASHOE, STATE OF NEVADA
4

5 IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER OF
6 PROCESSING CRIMINAL CASES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-01

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9 Pursuant to NRS 4.157(c) and JCRRT 21, the Chief Justice of the Peace of Reno
10 Township hereby enters this Administrative Order to address the management of cases on the
11 Court's criminal docket. The Court enters this Order, in part, to respond to case backlogs
12 associated with modified operations that were made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic.
13 Specifically, over the course of the pandemic the Court has entered several administrative orders
14 that eliminated or restricted in-person appearances for various types of proceedings, including
15 pretrial conferences and mandatory status conferences in pending criminal matters.

16 Prior to the pandemic, the Court held mandatory status conferences and pretrial
17 conferences in order to assist the parties in bringing criminal cases to a prompt resolution.
18 Although many criminal cases have still proceeded to a final disposition during the pandemic, a
19 recent analysis of the Court's open, pending cases indicates that the Court's current criminal
20 caseload is approximately 90% higher than it was at this time of the year in 2019. The Court has
21 determined that the current state of the pandemic prohibits the Court from reinstating mandatory
22 appearances for status conferences and pretrial conferences, so it is necessary to create an
23 alternative procedure for resolving criminal cases in a timely manner.

24 The Court recognizes that Sparks Justice Court recently adopted a procedure to replace
25 mandatory status conferences and pretrial conferences in its own Administrative Order. *See*

1 Sparks Justice Court Administrative Order 2021-04. The procedures adopted by Sparks Justice
2 Court were created in collaboration with the offices of the Washoe County Public Defender, the
3 Washoe County Alternate Public Defender, and the Washoe County District Attorney.
4 Representatives from those offices have urged this Court to adopt similar procedures in the
5 interest of ensuring consistent practices across both courts. THEREFORE, the Court hereby
6 ORDERS as follows:

7 (1) As of May 3, 2021, Reno Justice Court will no longer set pretrial hearings or
8 mandatory status conferences and will replace them with the following procedures.

9 (2) At all initial arraignments, the Court will set one attorney conference (to replace
10 pretrial conferences and mandatory status conferences) approximately seven business
11 days from the date of the arraignment.

12 a. No court appearance is necessary for the attorney conference. The setting is
13 intended to provide defendants and their counsel with a deadline by which
14 time they are expected to initially meet and confer.

15 b. Defendants will be advised that the conference is NOT a scheduled court
16 appearance and that their attorney should attempt to contact them in
17 approximately seven business days. The Court will (upon request) provide
18 indigent defendants who have been appointed counsel with contact
19 information for the offices of the public defender and/or the alternate public
20 defender.

21 c. This conference will be set as an "event" in the Court's Odyssey Case
22 Management System. The date and time will be provided to the parties, but it
23 will not create a scheduled calendar setting. The Court will confer with Pretrial
24 Services to ensure that they do not notify defendants that the attorney
25 conference is a required court appearance.

1 d. The Court will not be responsible for continuing or resetting the attorney
2 conference. That function will be managed by counsel or their staff.

3 (3) In addition to setting an attorney conference at a defendant's initial arraignment, the
4 Court will also set a status hearing approximately sixty (60) days from the date of the
5 arraignment.

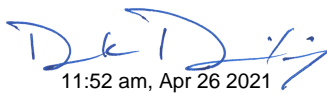
6 a. This status hearing is a mandatory appearance by defendants, their counsel,
7 and the prosecuting attorney. The parties and their counsel may appear in-
8 person or via teleconference (Zoom). In-custody defendants will appear
9 remotely from the Washoe County Detention Facility. Defense counsel may
10 waive their client's appearance if no disposition is pending, and the defendant
11 is compliant with Pre-Trial Services.

12 b. At the status hearing, the Court will ask both sides about the case status and
13 any issues that are impeding resolution, such as incomplete discovery,
14 pending test results, additional investigation, or other similar concerns. Based
15 upon the content of the discussions, the Court may either set another status
16 hearing or require the parties to set the case for trial or preliminary hearing. If
17 the parties have resolved the case, the Court will either hear the plea (if time
18 permits) or set the matter on the Court's plea and sentencing calendar. If the
19 parties reach a plea agreement prior to the date of the status hearing, they shall
20 contact the Court to vacate the status hearing and set the case on the Court's
21 plea and sentencing calendar.

22 c. Counsel may stipulate to one continuance of the status conference for not
23 more than an additional thirty (30) days. Email stipulations will be accepted,
24 but the parties must agree to the date and time of the continued status
25 conference.

- 1 d. Any further requests to continue a status conference must be made by motion
2 or stipulated Order (signed by a judge) upon good cause shown.
- 3 (4) The status hearing will be vacated automatically if the parties set the matter for a plea,
4 trial, or preliminary hearing, or when a counter plea, waiver, or other disposition is
5 received.
- 6 (5) Generally, all documents necessary for a plea and sentencing must be submitted to
7 the Court at least 24 hours in advance of the date for entry of plea or other disposition.
8 For urgent, day-of requests, all documents should be submitted at the time of the
9 request, but the case will not be placed on the calendar without judicial approval.
- 10 (6) This process will be applied prospectively, beginning May 3, 2021. Any existing
11 cases that are not pending final resolution by trial, plea or sentencing, when next
12 continued (for any purpose other than trial, plea or sentencing), will be set for a
13 mandatory appearance status hearing approximately thirty (30) days out (as set forth
14 in paragraph 3(a) of this Order), and the procedures for continuing such status
15 hearings (as set forth in paragraphs 3(c) and 3(d) of this Order) shall apply.
- 16 (7) This Order will remain in effect until it is modified or rescinded by a subsequent
17 order.

18
19 DATED this 26th day of April 2021.

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21 
22 11:52 am, Apr 26 2021

23 DEREK DREILING
24 CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
25 RENO JUSTICE COURT
26 DEPARTMENT 1