



PEORIA MUNICIPAL COURT ADOPTS NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER THAT FOLLOWS ARIZONA SUPREME COURT'S PUBLIC HEALTH, COVID-19, AND CDC GUIDELINES

Peoria Municipal Court Admin Order No. 007 follows recommendations to reduced staffing, limited access, social distancing, and a face mask requirement for all visitors. Consistent with these requirements, the court will limit public access to the building to ten persons with social distancing maintained. Visitors to the court will be screened to confirm they are not symptomatic and will be required to wear a face mask provided at their own expense. At the entry, visitors will also be allowed the alternative to remain outside and call the court for immediate in-person assistance.

For the safety of the public and staff, and still meeting all due process standards, effective June 1, the Court plans to make most court services available telephonically, by email, and by video as may be practical and available.

The Peoria Municipal Court's Presiding Judge praised the effort of the staff and department heads that helped create the new procedures. "We are pleased that, with the assistance of all city-wide departments, the prosecutors, and our public defenders, basically all court operations may be performed on a virtual basis. Parties, victims, witnesses, and attorneys will be able to appear remotely for arraignment, pretrial conferences, protective order *ex parte* and contested hearings, and to arrange to pay fines or enroll in defensive driving school programs. As for civil and criminal trials, most matters are currently being continued to allow more time to prepare but eventually the court will hope to use video conferencing as helpful during the Pandemic."

Attorneys as well as self-represented parties with matters in Peoria Municipal Court may contact staff Mondays through Thursdays during normal working court hours at 623 773 7400 for instructions as to filing documents electronically through a dedicated portal or for general assistance to enter their appearance and calendar matters.