

PROVO CITY JUSTICE COURT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER – MARCH 23, 2020

The world health organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak to be a pandemic. Governor Herbert has declared a state of emergency. To protect the public and all court participants, the Utah judiciary has implemented its Pandemic Response Plan.

Pursuant to this plan, and to an administrative order of March 21 2020 by Utah Supreme Court Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant, the following orders are in place as to the Provo City Justice Court:

1. The Provo City justice court shall remain open during regular business hours, in a manner necessary to effectuate the mission of the courts. **Remaining open may include and be limited to being electronically or telephonically accessible.** Individuals who show symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been exposed to someone with the symptoms of COVID-19 may not enter the courthouse.
2. Absent exigent circumstances, all hearings shall be conducted on the papers, or through remote transmission, such as by telephone or video conferencing. If an in-person hearing is necessary due to exigent circumstances, the Court shall conduct the hearing consistent with all applicable government and public health orders, and the Court's Pandemic Response Plan.
3. All criminal jury trials are suspended until after June 1, 2020.
4. The Provo City justice court shall continue to perform all mission-critical functions for in-custody defendants, which include, but are not necessarily limited to probable cause review of warrantless arrests, bail hearings, bench warrant hearings, arraignments, appearances mandated by statute, and sentencing hearings.
5. All hearings for defendants who are not in custody are continued until after June 1, 2020, and all hearings in small claims cases are continued until after June 1, 2020.
6. All hearings in cases involving defendants who are not in custody and who are charged with violations of the traffic code are continued until after October 1, 2020, except for cases in which the defendant is charged with reckless driving or driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Those cases will be continued until after June 1, 2020.

You may reach the Provo City justice court during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) by telephone at 801-852-6878) or by e-mail at jcprovo@utcourts.gov

Vernon F. Romney
Provo City Justice Court Judge