



HON. F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO
CHIEF JUSTICE

JUDICIARY OF GUAM

Administrative Office of the Courts
Guam Judicial Center • 120 West O'Brien Dr • Hagåtña, Gu. 96910
Tel: (671) 475-3544 • Fax: (671) 477-3184



HON. ALBERTO C. LAMORENA III
PRESIDING JUDGE

KRISTINA L. BAIRD
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS

Judiciary of Guam issues Fifth Updated Order relative to Court Operations

August 21, 2020

(Hagåtña, Guam) - The Judiciary of Guam (Judiciary) has issued several administrative orders to protect the public health, the most recent of such orders being the Fifth Updated Order, Administrative Order No. ADM20-399.

The Judiciary recognizes that the recent spike in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Guam requires more stringent measures to limit the transmission of the disease. With these considerations in mind, the Supreme Court of Guam issues ADM20-399 regarding the suspension of certain court operations to protect the public health by reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and slowing the spread of the disease.

To the extent ADM20-399 conflicts with any other existing administrative order of the court, ADM20-399 shall prevail.

Relative to the Fifth Updated Order, Administrative Order No. ADM20-399, please be aware of the following reminders:

- The Supreme Court of Guam and Superior Court of Guam will continue to be open to conduct only essential court business. Until at least August 31, 2020, all court facilities—including the Guam Judicial Center in Hagåtña, the San Ramon Temporary Courtroom, the Northern Court Satellite in Dededo, the offices of the Probation Services Division, and the Judicial Education Center—shall be closed to the general public, except where entry is required to address essential matters that cannot be resolved remotely (i.e., by telephone, videoconference, email, or comparable means, or through the electronic filing system) because it is not practicable or would contravene the protection of constitutional rights. Essential court operations shall continue at the Guam Judicial Center in Hagåtña.
- Essential matters shall continue to be scheduled and heard in keeping with the urgency of those matters (see paragraph 3 in ADM20-399) and consistent with statutory requirements, either in person (as provided in paragraph 2 of ADM20-399) or remotely by video conferencing or telephonic appearance, with the court to notify all participants necessary to the proceeding.
- All other Supreme Court and Superior Court matters scheduled to be heard between August 21, 2020, and August 31, 2020, are postponed and shall not be heard before August 31, 2020. These include, but are not limited to, criminal and civil trials, arraignments, appellate arguments, motion hearings, probate proceedings, and child support hearings.
- In-person appointments with the Probation Services Division are postponed until further notice.



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- No new grand juries shall be empaneled before August 31, 2020. Grand juries whose terms expire on or before August 31, 2020, shall be extended until that date. No orientation of new jurors shall take place before August 31, 2020. All active petit jurors and grand jurors shall serve to the full extent of the law.
- All grand jury proceedings are suspended until no earlier than August 31, 2020. The time periods for a preliminary examination and for filing an indictment are tolled until November 17, 2020.
- Any temporary restraining order, injunction, civil protection order, or stay set to expire on or after August 21, 2020, in any criminal or civil matter, shall automatically be extended under the same terms for ten (10) days or up to August 31, 2020, whichever is longer, unless the Presiding Judge, or the judge who issued the order, terminates or modifies the temporary restraining order, injunction, or stay.
- Orders granting Child Protective Services the custody of any minor shall not expire before August 31, 2020.
- With the exception of the filing of indictments, all filing deadlines—including statutory filing deadlines—shall be tolled from August 16, 2020, until August 31, 2020, unless otherwise specifically ordered by the applicable court. Any court filing due during this period shall be deemed timely filed if filed on August 31, 2020.
- Instead of in-person contact, filings will be accepted by the following methods:
 - a. E-filing
 - b. If e-filing is unavailable, pleadings may be filed by email to the respective Clerk's Office: efile@guamcourts.org for Superior Court filings and efile@guamsupremecourt.com for Supreme Court filings
 - c. Facsimile in accordance with court rules
 - d. Postal mail
 - e. Designated drop boxes at the Judiciary
- Any filing that requires payment of a filing fee should be paid online if available, but if court users cannot do so, filing fees will be deferred until August 31, 2020. Clerk's Office personnel will be available by telephone to answer questions regarding filing methods and fees.
- The following persons shall not enter the Guam Judicial Center in Hagåtña, the Northern Court Satellite in Dededo, or any Judiciary of Guam facility, including, but not limited to, the San Ramon Temporary Courtroom, probation offices, and the Judicial Education Center:
 - a. Persons diagnosed with or have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and have yet to be released from isolation by a medical provider or the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS);



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- b. Persons with any acute respiratory illness symptoms (i.e., cough, shortness of breath, headaches) flu-like symptoms, fever, or sneezing;
 - c. Persons asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, board of health, or other medical provider or health agency, or who reside with anyone who has been asked to self-quarantine;
 - d. Persons who have been in a country with confirmed COVID-19 cases within the last fourteen (14) days; and
 - e. Persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has traveled to these countries in the last fourteen (14) days.
- Anyone trying to enter in violation of ADM20-399 will be denied entry by Judiciary marshals, probation officers, or other security personnel.
 - Members of the public or media who would like to access court proceedings should contact the court's Public Information Officer, Kristina Blaz, by email at kblaz@guamcourts.org. To the extent logistically possible, the court shall provide public access by video or audio to court proceedings typically open to the public to maximize the public's ability to observe these proceedings.
 - If you are scheduled to appear in person and fall into any of the categories listed regarding persons who shall not enter the Guam Judicial Center in Hagåtña, the Northern Court Satellite in Dededo, or any Judiciary of Guam facility, including, but not limited to, the San Ramon Temporary Courtroom, probation offices, and the Judicial Education Center (see paragraph 20 of ADM20-399), you should proceed as follows:
 - a. If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney.
 - b. If you have no attorney and are seeking emergency relief, please call the Clerk's Office of the court in which you are seeking relief.
 - c. If you are an attorney scheduled to appear before a judge, please contact that section or team directly by telephone.
 - d. If you are scheduled to meet with a probation officer, please contact the probation officer or applicable probation section directly by telephone.
 - e. If in doubt as to whom you should contact, please call the Clerk's Office of the court in which you are scheduled to appear.

In addition, Supreme Court of Guam Administrative Order No. ADM20-400 is attached. ADM20-400 authorizes the Magistrates to preside over warrant returns in all criminal matters before the Superior Court of Guam under exigent circumstances related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

For more information, please email our Public Information Officer Kristina (Tina) Blaz at kblaz@guamcourts.org.