



SUPREME COURT
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Guma' Hustisia·Iimwal Aweewe·House of Justice

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Supreme Court Releases COVID-19 Order No. 3 on Court Operations

On May 8, 2020, the Supreme Court issued its third order, Supreme Court Order No. 2020-ADM-0010-MSJ, concerning the Judiciary's services for the public in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Court stated: "The evolving circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and the increase in demand for judicial services warrant resuming particular services to the public." Judiciary employees have been and continue to work within the courthouses and facilities on a limited basis. Others have been directed to telework at designated sites.

Judiciary courthouses and facilities will be open on a limited basis through Thursday, July 2. The Court stressed the need to use remote communication technologies such as teleconference and video conference capabilities and electronic filing for judicial operations. It indicated that the courthouses are equipped with technology accessible by litigants, including pro se litigants who do not have access to technology. These courthouses include the Guma' Hustisia in Susupe, Saipan; Kotten Tinian in San Jose, Tinian; and Centron Hustisia in Sinapalo, Rota. Access to these services may be arranged in advance of the hearing.

The Supreme Court's third quarter oral arguments from August 17-28, 2020 will proceed as scheduled. All electronic filing and service deadlines and procedures remain in effect.

Superior Court actions and matters scheduled between Monday, May 11 and Thursday, July 2 may be heard telephonically or by video conference where practicable. The Superior Court may also schedule proceedings requiring in person appearances in the courthouses at the discretion of the judge presiding over the matter. All jury trials are postponed to after July 2. Bench trials may be heard where practicable.

The Court also outlined a number of provisions for other Judiciary operations. The Cashier's Office under Budget & Finance will resume business hours on a limited basis. The Cashier's Office will not be open on holidays or scheduled austerity Fridays.

Submissions of or requests for audio or written transcripts, document processing, or record certification may be submitted by email to Superior.Court@NMIJudiciary.com or by U.S. registered mail to CNMI Superior Court, P.O. Box 500307 Saipan, MP 96950. If electronic or remote submission or review of documents is not practicable, persons may schedule an appointment by contacting (670) 236-9703 or by email at Superior.Court@NMIJudiciary.com.

For further information on the Order, contact Clerk of the Supreme Court Gretchen A. Smith at (670) 236-9718. Inquiries about specific services may be directed to any of the respective managers in the attached directory.