

HON. F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO

CHIEF JUSTICE

JUDICIARY OF GUAM

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HON. ALBERTO C. LAMORENA III PRESIDING JUDGE KRISTINA L. BAIRD ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS

Supreme Court of Guam Issues Seventeenth Updated Order Relative to Court Operations

July 30, 2021

(Hagatna, Guam) - On July 29, 2021, the Department of Public Health and Social Services certified that Guam has achieved its vaccination goal of 80% of the adult population. The court recognizes the tremendous strides Guam has made in containing the spread of COVID-19 and the need to remain vigilant to continue the island's progress in combating the spread of the disease. With these conditions in mind, the court issues its *Seventeenth Updated Order Relative to Court Operations Under Exigent Circumstances Related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)*, effective Friday, July 30, 2021.

Under the *Seventeenth Updated Order*, Judiciary of Guam facilities continue to be open to the general public for all court business between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, subject to certain limitations. The counters of the Supreme Court Clerk's Office and Superior Court Clerk's Office including the counters at the Northern Court Satellite, continue to remain open between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. The Supreme Court and Superior Court Clerk's Offices will continue to accept filings made in-person and via e-filing, e-mail, facsimile, and postal mail.

The Probation Services Division and the Client Services and Family Counseling (CSFC) Division will continue to provide services on an appointment-only basis, but services without an appointment may be approved by the Chief Probation Officer or the CSFC Administrator.

Judicial officers and the courts may continue to limit in-person contact by using available technologies, including alternative means of filing, teleconferencing, video conferencing, and email, except when doing so would contravene the protection of constitutional rights.

All active petit jurors and grand jurors will continue to serve to the full extent of the law.

Court proceedings shall be open to the public except where public access is typically restricted such as juvenile proceedings and other sealed matters. Members of the public or media who wish to access court proceedings or need further information, should contact the Public Information Officer, Kristina (Tina) Blaz, at <u>kblaz@guamcourts.org</u>.

For the protection of court patrons and employees, the court will continue to require all individuals entering a Judiciary of Guam facility for any purpose to wear face masks or other appropriate face coverings.

To view the complete Seventeenth Updated Order Relative to Court Operations Under Exigent Circumstances Related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), Administrative Order No. ADM21-657, please see the attached document.