A Message from Superior Court and Clerk in La Paz County

March 20, 2020:

La Paz County Superior Court is working closely with State and County Officials to monitor the evolving information regarding COVID-19. Although there are currently no confirmed cases in La Paz County, the Superior Court in La Paz County is committed to respond reasonably to the concerns raised in the community regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and keep the Courts open.

Based on the information provided by the CDC and recommendations by the La Paz County Health Department, efforts are being made to implement proactive precautionary measures to reduce social interactions. While we remain open to the public, we urge those who do not have business at the courthouse to minimize their presence at our facility. Please follow the below guidelines for conducting business with the La Paz County Superior Court.

Filing your paperwork:

Pursuant to local Administrative Order AO20200001, whenever possible, all filings shall be done electronically. The Clerk's Office will be accepting emailed filings as originals; therefore, there is no need to mail the original document to the Clerk's Office. If you need to file paperwork at the courthouse, please email <u>lapaztransmittals@courts.az.gov</u>. You may also utilize the exterior depository box or send documents for filing along with any required filing fee by means of U.S. mail. If you email your documents, someone from the Clerk's Office will contact you for the appropriate payment. The Clerk's Office will utilize email for distribution as much as possible.

Making Court Related Payments:

The Clerk's Office will not be accepting cash for court-related payments at this time. Money orders will be accepted. You may also make credit card payments online at <u>lapazsuperiorcourtpay.com</u> or 1(844) 279-6286.

Passports:

Until further notice, the Clerk's Office will not process any new passport applications. Customers may continue to apply for their renewal through the mail.

Court Hearings:

If you have hearings scheduled, the Superior Court bench is open to liberally utilizing telephonic and video-conference appearances when requested and as permissible by court rules. To make arrangements to appear telephonically, please call 928-669-6134 or email your motion and proposed order to <u>lapaztransmittals@courts.az.gov</u>.

Members of the community who are symptomatic or feeling ill are asked to stay home. If you are ill and have an upcoming court proceeding, you are encouraged to contact the assigned Court to request to appear telephonically or have your matter continued. If you appear for a court proceeding and are exhibiting symptoms, the judge may ask you to leave.

The Superior Court is following the latest recommendation of the CDC that suggests we not gather in groups of more than 10 people which will be reserved for essential parties to the case such as, victims, defendants/respondents, plaintiffs/petitioners, court and clerk staff. For anyone who is not a party in a case but wishes to attend court in support of a family member or friend, please reconsider coming unless your attendance is essential.

As we are open to the public, our commitment to providing a safe and healthy environment is and will continue to be a top priority. To assist in the process of containing the spread of COVID-19, court employees are being urged to maintain a clean working environment and follow healthy practices as recommended by health officials.

La Paz County Superior Court will continue to monitor developments with COVID-19 and implement contingency plans as deemed appropriate. For more information regarding COVID-19, please visit <u>www.azhealth.gov/COVID19</u>.

For additional information on filing paperwork, making payments or passports, you may call the Clerk's Office at 928-669-6131.

Thank you,

Jessica L. Quickle, Presiding Judge

Megan Spielman, Clerk of the Court