

IN THE RIVERTON CITY JUSTICE COURT
SALT LAKE COUNTY, STATE OF UTAH

In Re: COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19	STANDING ORDER 2020-2 Judge Gregory L. Bown
--	--

This Order implements the Administrative Order, styled “In Re: Order for Court Operations During Pandemic,” issued by the Utah Supreme Court on March 13, 2020 [Utah Pandemic Order] and which was amended and replaced by an Administrative Order dated March 21, 2020. The court has reviewed the Utah Pandemic Order, the Utah State Court’s Pandemic Influenza Response Plan, the Utah State Court’s Continuity of Operations Plan, as well as the Riverton City Continuity of Operations Plan, and hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. The Riverton City Justice Court WILL REMAIN OPEN during regular business hours and will continue to accept filings and be available to answer phone calls, emails, and other communications. It has put procedures in place to ensure that those who are prohibited from entering the courthouse by this order continue to have access to justice. To prevent our telephone lines from being overloaded, please use the email address of court@rivertonutah.gov as a first resort when communicating with the court. If you do not have access to email, feel free to call us at (801) 208-3131. We thank you in advance for your patience if you experience longer than usual wait times. Anyone making a request pursuant to this order is required to include, IF AVAILABLE, their telephone number, current email address, and current mailing address.

2. All currently scheduled hearings involving in-custody defendants except jury trials will PROCEED. However, all in-custody hearings will be re-set on video-conferencing calendars to minimize the risk to vulnerable populations. Upon stipulation of the parties, the court is willing to conduct any of the remaining hearings either telephonically or via video conference.

3. If your case has not been continued pursuant to the above orders, you nevertheless MAY NOT ENTER THE RIVERTON CITY JUSTICE COURT BUILDING if you show symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, or shortness of breath), or have been in contact with someone who either shows those symptoms or has been exposed to COVID-19. Further, the court will liberally grant continuances for anyone in an at-risk group identified by the CDC, including: (1) anyone over the age of 60; (2) anyone with diabetes or heart/lung disease; (3) anyone with a compromised immune system; and (4) anyone who is pregnant. If any of the circumstances described in this paragraph applies to you, please request a continuance using any of the following methods: a. Defendants represented by private counsel are instructed to contact their attorneys to request continuances. b. Defendants who have been appointed counsel are directed to contact their attorneys at mary@skeenandrobinson.com c. Defendants who do not have counsel, or are unsure about whether they have appointed counsel, may contact the court to request a continuance by email at court@rivertonutah.gov. Please include your name,

Date of Birth, and if possible, your case #. d. Witnesses or victims who have been subpoenaed or notified by the prosecutor's office of a court date, should contact the Riverton City Prosecutor's Office at prosecution@rivertonutah.gov. e. If you do not have internet access, you can reach the above entities by phone as follows: Court at (801) 208-3131, Appointed Counsel at 801-892-5092, or the Prosecutor's Office at 801-208-3140. If you request a continuance using any of these methods, the court will set a hearing in a time, place, and manner that strikes the proper balance between the public's vital interest in the prompt adjudication of cases and its equally vital interest in preserving the health and safety of everyone living in our greater community.

WITH REGARD TO ALL NON CUSTODY CASES:

A. All trials (jury and bench) are HEREBY CONTINUED and will be rescheduled after June 1, 2020.

B. All small claims cases are HEREBY CONTINUED and will be rescheduled after October 1, 2020.

C. All hearings in criminal cases including DUI and Reckless Driving are CONTINUED until after June 1, 2020.

D. All hearings in traffic cases except DUI and Reckless Driving are CONTINUED until after October 1, 2020.

4. All dates for individuals to self-report to the Salt Lake County Jail are STILL ACTIVE, as of the date of this order but this is subject to change depending on the Jail rules.

5. The court encourages all parties to make liberal use of the plea by affidavit mechanism until June 1, 2020.

6. All conditions of pre-trial release remain in effect. If any party wants to adjust the conditions of pre-trial release pursuant to the Utah Pandemic Order before June 1, 2020, please request a hearing by contacting the court as outlined above. The court will make an effort to accommodate all such requests on one of its weekly Tuesday 1:30 p.m. calendars.

7. All sentencing orders and plea-in-abeyance agreements will remain in effect. The court will continue to monitor compliance with its orders. However, the court will alter its tracking practices as follows between March 18, 2020, and May 16, 2020: a. All financial consequences ordered by the court will not be considered delinquent until at least June or October, 2020. You do not need to contact the court to reschedule payments, the court will monitor the due dates of payments internally. b. The court will continue to file order to show cause affidavits until and June 1, or October 1, 2020, to preserve its jurisdiction. The court will schedule all review and OSC hearings based on these affidavits after June 1, or October 1, 2020, unless an earlier hearing is specifically requested by a party and authorized by the Utah Pandemic Order. Once the Utah Pandemic Order is no longer in effect, the court will issue standing orders granting reasonable extensions for compliance in these cases.

8. By authority of Utah Code Annotated, Section 77-7-21(1)(b) all mandatory appearance traffic offenses except for DUI and Reckless Driving are bail forfeitable and NOT mandatory appearance offenses until October 1, 2020. For non- mandatory

appearance traffic cases, authority is given to the clerk of the Court to arrange payment schedule of up to 6 months.

9. The Utah Pandemic Order states that it may be amended at any time. The court will respond to such amendments as quickly as possible.

10. Any party claiming exigent circumstances that require a modification of these orders may request with the court a variance of these Orders. Hearings on those requests will be heard the next available Tuesday at 1:30 PM in the courtroom or telephonically or by video media.

Dated: March 23, 2020

BY THE COURT

Hon. GREGORY L. BOWN

Contact Information:

Appointed Counsel:

Email: mary@skeenandrobinson.com

Phone: (801) 892-5092

Court Clerk:

Email: court@rivertonutah.gov

Phone: (801) 208-3131

Prosecutor's Office:

Email: prosecution@rivertonutah.gov

Phone (801) 208-3140