

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

## **COVID-19**

### **Mescalero Tribal Court**

As part of the Mescalero Tribal Court's social distancing efforts to slow the spread of **COVID-19** coronavirus, the Tribal Court has implemented a number of public health measures in an effort to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus and provide the greatest protection possible to those who work at and have business in our Court.

The Court will reschedule non-emergency civil matters and any criminal matter where the defendant is not in custody. Where the criminal defendant is in custody, the Court will expand the use of videoconferencing.

#### **CIVIL/CHILDREN CASES**

For cases that must be heard during this time, on a case-by-case basis, the Court will determine if non-essential, in-person proceedings may pose an unnecessary or unreasonable risk to participants, Court staff, or the public. In such instances, the Court will postpone the proceeding or manage the proceeding by telephone to avoid additional risk.

#### **CRIMINAL CASES**

The Court will reschedule jury trials, bench trials and large docket calls (i.e. pretrial conferences and arraignments), to avoid the gathering of large groups of people.

#### **SERVICE OF PROCESS**

Service of Process will be limited to Public Notice and USPS mail. Court customers may call the Tribal Court at 575-464-0414 to check on scheduling.

#### **LOBBY CLOSED**

The Court Lobby will be closed to the public. If you have a scheduled court hearing, please sign in at the Security Desk, return to your vehicle, and wait until you are called to the courtroom by a Court staff member.

#### **PROBATION/PRE-TRIAL SERVICE/PAROLE**

All Tribal Court customers who are on probation must **CALL-IN** at **(575) 973-4240**, no walk-in will be allowed.

**The above provisions will remain in effect until further notice.**

During this public health emergency, the Tribal Court pledges to do all it can to keep its employees and the public that come to the Court healthy and safe. The Court has increased its regular cleaning and disinfecting procedures, with emphasis on those areas with the most public contact. Court users and employees are reminded to take the same precautions that would be used during any flu season (wash your hands thoroughly, cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, and stay home when you're sick).

The Mescalero Tribal Court is monitoring updates from the Mescalero Apache Tribe and from the Center for Disease Control for ongoing guidance and direction regarding necessary precautions and action plans. Updates will be made as new information becomes available.