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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF GUAM

RE:)	Supreme Court of Guam
RELATIVE TO COURT)	Administrative Order No. ADM20-210
OPERATIONS UNDER EXIGENT)	
CIRCUMSTANCES RELATED TO)	
COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS))	
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Because of public health concerns arising from the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, the State of Emergency declared by *I Maga'hâgan Guâhan* in Executive Order No. 2020-03 on March 14, 2020, and the closure by *I Maga'hâga* in Executive Order No. 2020-04 of non-essential government operations for fourteen (14) days beginning March 16, 2020, the court, in accordance with its jurisdiction to issue orders in aid of its supervisory jurisdiction over the Superior Court of Guam and all other courts of the judicial branch of Guam, issues this **ORDER** regarding the suspension of certain operations of the Judiciary of Guam to protect the public health by reducing the risk of exposure to the coronavirus and slowing the spread of the disease:

1. Effective 12:00 noon on Monday, March 16, 2020, until 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 30, 2020, all Judiciary of Guam facilities—including the Guam Judicial Center in Hagåtña, the Northern Court Satellite in Dededo, the offices of the Probation Services Division, and the Judicial Education Center—shall be closed to the public on an emergency basis. However, essential court operations shall continue at the Guam Judicial Center in Hagåtña. No operations will take place at the Northern Court Satellite. Judiciary employees will receive direction from their respective managers as to work reporting requirements.
2. The following matters shall continue to be scheduled and heard in keeping with the urgency of those matters and consistent with statutory requirements, either in



1 person or remotely by video conferencing or telephonic appearance, with the court to
2 notify all participants necessary to the proceeding:

- 3 a. Magistrate proceedings;
- 4 b. Writs of habeas corpus;
- 5 c. Preliminary hearings for detained juveniles;
- 6 d. Persons In Need of Services (PINS) petitions;
- 7 e. Civil protection orders;
- 8 f. Temporary restraining orders;
- 9 g. Search warrants;
- 10 h. Warrant returns;
- 11 i. Emergency guardianships;
- 12 j. Probation pretrial services;
- 13 k. Probation post-judgment services involving high-risk offenders;
- 14 l. Quarantine and isolation petitions and related proceedings;
- 15 m. Other court proceedings under the Emergency Health Powers Act
16 codified in Title 10, Chapter 19 of the Guam Code Annotated; and
- 17 n. Any other locally or federally mandated hearings.

18 3. All other Supreme Court and Superior Court matters scheduled to be heard
19 between March 16, 2020, and March 30, 2020, are postponed pending further order of
20 this court. These include, but are not limited to, criminal and civil trials, arraignments,
21 appellate arguments, motion hearings, probate proceedings, and child support hearings.

22 4. Upon showing exceptional circumstances, a party may seek an exception to
23 this Order by motion to the court in which the matter is pending. Exceptions shall be
24 granted only upon the approval of the judge presiding over the matter and the Presiding
25 Judge, or the Chief Justice, as applicable.

26 5. Under Guam law and court rules, the court is deemed always open for filing
27 any proper paper, issuing and returning process, making a motion, and entering an
28 order. *See* 8 GCA § 1.31; Guam R. Civ. P. 77(a); Guam R. App. P. 31(a)(2). Until

1 otherwise ordered by this court, all existing filing deadlines remain in effect. Instead of
2 in-person contact, filings will be accepted by the following methods:

- 3 a. E-filing
- 4 b. If e-filing is unavailable, pleadings may be filed by email to the
5 respective Clerk's Office: efile@guamcourts.org for Superior Court
6 filings and efile@guamsupremecourt.com for Supreme Court filings.
- 7 c. Facsimile in accordance with court rules
- 8 d. Postal mail
- 9 e. Designated drop boxes at the Judiciary

10 6. Any filing that requires payment of a filing fee should be paid online if
11 available, but if court users cannot do so, filing fees will be deferred until March 30,
12 2020. Clerk's Office personnel will be available by telephone to answer questions
13 regarding filing methods and fees.

14 7. During the court closure, the Clerks of Court and parties shall serve
15 documents through electronic means or by mail, except for those limited instances in
16 which personal service is required.

17 8. Effective immediately, the following persons shall not enter the Guam
18 Judicial Center in Hagåtña, the Northern Court Satellite in Dededo, or any Judiciary of
19 Guam facility, including, but not limited to, probation offices and the Judicial Education
20 Center:

- 21 a. Persons who have been diagnosed with or have had contact with anyone
22 who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- 23 b. Persons with any acute respiratory illness symptoms (i.e, cough, shortness
24 of breath, headaches) flu-like symptoms, fever, or sneezing.
- 25 c. Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital,
26 board of health, or other medical provider or health agency, or who reside
27 with anyone who has been asked to self-quarantine.

1 d. Persons who have been in China, Iran, South Korea, the Philippines,
2 Japan, the United Kingdom, Ireland, or the Schengen Area European
3 Countries¹ within the last fourteen (14) days. This list will automatically
4 update to comply with any future directives from *I Magsa'hagan Guahan*,
5 without further order of this court.

6 e. Persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has
7 traveled to these countries in the last fourteen (14) days.

8 9. Anyone trying to enter in violation of this Order will be denied entry by
9 Judiciary marshals, probation officers, or other security personnel.

10 10. Persons who have traveled within the last fourteen (14) days to areas not
11 listed above but who feel they should self-quarantine as a precautionary measure may
12 disclose such travel to the court and request that proceedings be postponed to a date
13 after the period of self-quarantine. The judicial officer presiding over the matter shall
14 exercise his or her discretion in granting such a continuance, keeping in mind statutory
15 requirements, the rights of the parties, and the interest of public health.

16 11. If you are scheduled to appear for a matter listed under paragraph 2 and you
17 fall into any of the categories listed in paragraph 8 or would like to self-quarantine
18 under paragraph 10, you should proceed as follows:

- 19 a. If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney.
20 b. If you have no attorney and are seeking emergency relief, please call the
21 Clerk's Office of the court in which you are seeking relief.
22 c. If you are an attorney scheduled to appear before a judge, please contact
23 that section or team directly by telephone.
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26 ¹ Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary,
27 Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal,
28 Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

