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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF GUAM

RE:) Supreme Court of Guam
EIGHTEENTH UPDATED ORDER) Administrative Order No. ADM21-719
RELATIVE TO COURT)
OPERATIONS UNDER EXIGENT)
CIRCUMSTANCES RELATED TO)
COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS))
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Because of public health concerns arising from the COVID-19 (coronavirus) global pandemic, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* declared a state of public health emergency on March 14, 2020, and in the ensuing seventeen months, issued a series of executive orders to stem the spread of the virus. In line with the various executive orders, the court, under 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, issued several administrative orders adopting various measures to protect the public health, including temporarily suspending certain court operations, imposing social distancing and mask mandates, and expanding the use of technologies to limit in-person hearings.

Last month, after a marked decline in the rate of COVID-19 cases in Guam and the achievement of the island's goal of vaccinating 80% of its adult population, the Governor lifted all physical distancing and occupancy restrictions, leaving in place only the requirement of mask-wearing in congregate settings. In response to the lifting of restrictions, the court followed suit and issued Administrative Order No. ADM21-657, which, among other things, removed all physical distancing requirements within Judiciary of Guam facilities while leaving in place the mask-wearing requirement.

In the few short weeks since the issuance of Administrative Order No. ADM21-657, the island has seen a dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases as well as confirmed community spread of

1 the highly contagious Delta variant. In that time, several Judiciary employees have either tested
2 positive for COVID-19 or reported exposure to a confirmed positive case. While the court has
3 seen a welcome increase in its operational capacity, including its jury activity, with this increase
4 comes the heightened risk of COVID-19 transmission among court employees, patrons, and those
5 called to jury service. The court recognizes that the ongoing threat to public health requires the
6 reimposition of measures to limit the transmission of the disease. With these considerations in
7 mind, the court issues this **EIGHTEENTH UPDATED ORDER** regarding court operations
8 related to COVID-19:

9 1. Individuals entering a Judiciary of Guam facility for any purpose shall maintain
10 a physical distance of at least six (6) feet from other individuals in the courthouse except
11 for those residing in the same household.

12 2. All active petit jurors and grand jurors shall be subject to screening questions
13 related to COVID-19.

14 3. Judiciary personnel will enforce these restrictions to protect the health and
15 safety of court patrons and employees.

16 4. This Eighteenth Updated Order shall be effective on August 27, 2021. The
17 court's Seventeenth Updated Order of July 30, 2021, remains in full force and effect
18 except to the extent it conflicts with this Eighteenth Updated Order.

19 5. This Eighteenth Updated Order will be revised as circumstances warrant.
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21 **SO ORDERED** this 25th day of August 2021.
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26 **ROBERT J. TORRES**
27 Associate Justice

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26 **KATHERINE A. MARAMAN**
27 Associate Justice

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29 **F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO**
30 Chief Justice