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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF GUAM

RE:)	Supreme Court of Guam
)	Administrative Order No. ADM20-265
	RELATIVE TO APPROVING AND)	
	AUTHORIZING THE ZOOM)	
	VIRTUAL CONFERENCING)	
	PLATFORM FOR)	
	VIRTUAL/REMOTE COURT)	
	HEARINGS)	
)	

Because of the continued public health concerns arising from the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* has issued a series of executive orders to stem the spread of the virus, including: Executive Order No. 2020-03, declaring a State of Emergency; Executive Order No. 2020-04, closing non-essential government operations through March 30, 2020; Executive Order No. 2020-05, prohibiting public gatherings and mandating social isolation; Executive Order No. 2020-06, extending the closure of non-essential government operations through April 13, 2020; Executive Order No. 2020-09, extending the public health emergency and the provisions outlined in Executive Order 2020-03 until May 5, 2020, and requiring the use of face masks by employees and patrons of all essential businesses and government agencies; Executive Order No. 2020-10, extending the limited operations of the Government of Guam through May 5, 2020; Executive Order No. 2020-11, extending the public health emergency until May 30, 2020, and establishing the island's Pandemic Conditions of Readiness System; and Executive Order No. 2020-16, extending the public health emergency until June 29, 2020, lifting additional social restrictions, and ordering the recommencement of public operations for all government of Guam offices, agencies and departments effective June 1, 2020.

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In turn, 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, has issued several administrative orders to protect the public health, among these are ADM20-239, which, among other things, extended the court closure for all but essential services until June 5, 2020, and included a provision for the reopening of the Northern Court Satellite in Dededo for a limited set of transactions; and ADM20-254, which included a provision for the reopening of the Guam Judicial Center in Hagåtña for a limited set of transactions beginning June 3, 2020.

The court recognizes that while social distancing measures imposed by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* have resulted in a downward trend of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Guam, the ongoing threat to public health requires the continuation of measures to limit the transmission of COVID-19. At the same time, the court recognizes the need to expand its services to provide greater access to justice in non-essential matters, while keeping at the forefront the need to protect the health and safety of court employees, patrons, and the general public.

With these considerations in mind, on June 3, 2020, the court issued its Second Updated Order, Administrative Order No. ADM20-260, in the interest of the public health. Effective from the date of this Second Updated Order, this Second Updated Order repealed and replaced Administrative Order No. ADM20-239. To the extent the Second Updated Order conflicts with any other existing administrative order of the court, this Second Updated Order shall prevail.

In furtherance of this court's Administrative Orders allowing for certain court hearings and proceedings to be conducted on a virtual platform using available technologies, including teleconferencing and videoconferencing, and based on the powers vested in the Chief Justice through the Organic Act of Guam, including issuing administrative orders on behalf of the Supreme Court of Guam as necessary for the efficient administration of the judicial branch of Guam, *see* 48 USCA § 1421-1(b)(2), (3), it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. The Judiciary of Guam has secured a number of Zoom licenses and videoconferencing and audioconferencing of court hearings and proceedings shall be conducted using the Zoom platform unless otherwise indicated by the judicial officer

presiding over the hearing. It shall be the responsibility of attorneys and litigants to download and familiarize themselves with the Zoom application.

- 2. Consistent with Administrative Order No. ADM20-260 ¶ 19, any court rule that impedes the court's ability to use technologies to eliminate or limit in-person contact in the conduct of court business is suspended until December 31, 2020, except that such suspension is subject to constitutional requirements.
- 3. Virtual/remote hearings and proceedings conducted with the Zoom platform must be consistent with a party's constitutional rights and must allow for confidential communication between a party and the party's counsel when required.
- 4. Attorneys and/or parties whose hearings and proceedings will be held using the Zoom platform will receive a notice or information from the court about how to join the hearing and proceeding.
- 5. Consistent with Administrative Order No. ADM20-260 ¶20, members of the public or media who would like to access court proceedings should contact the court's Public Information Officer, Ms. Kristina Blaz, by email at kblaz@guamcourts.org. To the extent logistically possible, the court shall provide public access by video or audio to court proceedings typically open to the public to maximize the public's ability to observe these proceedings. This Order shall be effective immediately and shall continue until otherwise ordered.

SO ORDERED this 9th day of June, 2020.

/s/
F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO
Chief Justice