

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF GUAM

RELATIVE TO EXTENDING THE)

CIRCUMSTANCES RELATED TO

CLOSURE OF NON-ESSENTIAL

COURT OPERATIONS AND TOLLING TIME LIMITATIONS

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

UNDER EXIGENT

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RE:

Supreme Court of Guam Administrative Order No. ADM20-214

Because of public health concerns arising from the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) pandemic, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* has issued a series of executive orders to stem the spread of the virus: 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; and Executive Order No. 2020-06, extending the closure of non-essential government operations through April 13, 2020. In turn, 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, has issued several administrative orders to protect the public health, including: ADM20-210, closing the court for all but essential services, postponing non-essential court matters including civil and criminal trials, and deferring payment of filing fees, until March 30, 2020; and ADM20-211, suspending all grand jury proceedings until March 30, 2020.

The court recognizes that the continued rise of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Guam is of utmost concern and that it must do its part to support the efforts of *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* to protect the public health by reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and slowing the spread of the disease. Therefore, the court issues this **ORDER** in the interest of the public health:

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1. The timelines set forth in ADM20-210 and ADM20-211 are extended from March 30, 2020, to April 15, 2020, or until further order of this court.

2. All civil and criminal trials are suspended—without exception—until no earlier than April 15, 2020, or until further order of this court.

3. Effective from the date of this order until April 15, 2020, all filing deadlines—including statutory filing deadlines—shall be tolled. Any court filing due during this period shall be deemed timely filed if filed when the court opens for regular business on April 15, 2020.

4. The continuances occasioned by this Order serve the ends of justice and outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial. Therefore, the time periods of such continuances shall be excluded from speedy trial computations under 8 GCA § 80.60, and the time periods for a preliminary examination and for the filing of an indictment are tolled for this period.

5. To the extent this Order conflicts with any other existing administrative order of the court, this Order shall prevail.

6. This Order will be revised as circumstances warrant.

SO ORDERED this 27th day of March, 2020.

/s/ ROBERT J. TORRES Associate Justice /s/ KATHERINE A. MARAMAN Associate Justice

/s/ F. PHILIP CARBULLIDO Chief Justice

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