

MORONGO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

MORONGO TRIBAL COURT

**IN RE THE MORONGO TRIBAL COURT AND
THE PANDEMIC OUTBREAK OF THE
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)**

No. 2020-1

**EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
REGARDING COVID-19**

THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER is being issued in response to the pandemic outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019- (COVID-19).

Although for many this disease appears to cause only flu-like symptoms it can pose a serious and potentially lethal risk as exhibited by the increasing number of California deaths currently attributed to the disease. On March 17, 2020, the Morongo Tribal Council passed Resolution No.031720-02, Tribal Emergency Declaration for COVID-19 Virus Pursuant to the Morongo Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Stafford Act (the Resolution). The Resolution temporarily closed or required only essential functioning of all Tribal Administration departments and offices from March 17, 2020 until the Tribal Council takes further action to end the declared state of emergency. California Governor Gavin Newsom also declared a state of emergency in California on March 4, 2020.

Given the significant number of identified and projected cases of the disease in California, the severity of the risk posed to the public, and the state of emergency declared

1 by the Morongo Tribal Council, the current situation demands immediate action by the
2 Court.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby – **ORDERED** that effective immediately and until
4 further Order of this Court:

- 5
6 1. Pursuant to Morongo Tribal Council Resolution No. 031720-02, the Court will
7 only hear emergent cases beginning on March 17, 2020, to March 31, 2020. This
8 date may be revised depending upon the status of the COVID-19 public health
9 emergency.
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11 2. All time frames set forth in the Morongo Tribal Code that are applicable to any
12 court proceeding or tort claim are suspended effective March 17, 2020 to March
13 31, 2020. This date may be revised depending upon the status of the COVID-19
14 public health emergency.
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16 3. The Morongo Tribal Court will hear all matters of an urgent nature, including
17 emergent issues in Ordinance 9 violations, and urgent issues that arise in
18 guardianships or conservatorships.
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20 4. Should the need arise for a hearing, the Court will conduct telephonic or video
21 hearings, in all cases without exception, regardless of the health of the parties,
22 attorneys, or other participants in order to minimize the number of people
23 attending court in person. The Court has the capability to connect attorneys and
24 parties on video/conference call.

1 5. The Morongo Tribal Court continues to accept emailed pleadings, motions, and
2 reports. These documents can be emailed to tribalcourt@morongo-nsn.gov.

3 Parties can contact the Court via email or by telephone at (951)572-6068.

4 DATED THIS 19TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020.

5
6 *Cindy Smith*

7
8 JUDGE CINDY K. SMITH
MORONGO TRIBAL COURT



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23 I certify that this photocopy is a true copy
of the original document on file and that it
has not been altered in any way.

24 Date: 3-19-2020

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26 Morongo Tribal Court Clerk