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**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. 2020-6**  
) **EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**  
) **REGARDING TORT CLAIMS**

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Previously, this Court issued Emergency Administrative Order No. 4 tolling any time requirements for the processing of tort claims until July 31, 2020. Specifically, the Court ordered that all time frames set forth in the Morongo Tribal Code that are applicable to any court proceeding, patron claim, or tort claim were suspended effective March 17, 2020 to July 31, 2020.

Pursuant to Emergency Administrative Order No. 5 Regarding Tort Claims, all time frames relating to tort claims resumed on August 1, 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ramifications on Court operations, the Court has a backlog of tort claims that were filed after March 16, 2020. Although Ordinance 16, §8.2 of the Morongo Tribal Code, requires the Court to review tort claims within one week after they are filed, the Court requires more time to process these cases.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby **-ORDERED** that –

1. For all tort claims filed after March 16, 2020, the claims will be reviewed by the Court by August 14, 2020. The short extension of time is necessary to process the tort claims filed during the period of tolling.
2. Trial dates will be addressed at scheduled pretrial conferences. Scheduling of trial dates may be impacted by the public health emergency presented by the COVID-

1 19 virus. If a pretrial conference is not currently scheduled, the clerk will notify  
2 the parties of the date for the next pretrial conference hearing.

- 3 3. All court hearings will continue to be conducted via telephonic or video hearing  
4 without exception, regardless of the health of the parties, attorneys, or other  
5 participants. Barring exceptional circumstances, there will be no in-person  
6 hearings until further order of the court. Where court matters must be heard in  
7 person, social distancing, face coverings, and other public health measures must be  
8 strictly observed. Telephonic, video or other hearings will be recorded, with the  
9 recording preserved for the record.
- 10 4. The Morongo Tribal Court continues to accept emailed pleadings, motions, and  
11 reports. These documents can be emailed to: [tribalcourt@morongo-nsn.gov](mailto:tribalcourt@morongo-nsn.gov).  
12 Parties can contact the Court via email or by telephone at (951)572-6068.

13 DATED THIS 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

14 *Cindy Smith*

15 JUDGE CINDY K. SMITH  
16 MORONGO TRIBAL COURT



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

26 Date: 8/7/2020

*[Signature]*  
27 Morongo Tribal Court Clerk