



United States District Court
District of Nevada

Chambers of
Miranda M. Du
Chief Judge

Bruce R. Thompson U.S.
Courthouse & Federal Building
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September 12, 2022

MEMO RE: JURY TRIALS

The Court Reopening Group recently met to discuss modifications to the current “Plan For Jury Trials” (dated April 12, 2022) as we continue return to more normal operations. The April 2022 protocols are replaced with the following protocols.

Master Trial Scheduling Conference. We will continue to hold the MTSC three weeks before trial to help the jury coordinators better plan for the number of summonses to be issued.

Expansion of Jury Trials. Starting October 3, 2022, the number of trials will not be limited. However, start dates for the trials will continue to be staggered based on the presiding judge’s preference for either a Monday or a Tuesday start. Based on our pre-pandemic practice, we don’t anticipate any conflict with the trial start day when we have multiple trials proceeding on any stack. However, where an unresolved conflict arises, criminal jury trials will have priority in terms of trial start day.

Covid Mitigation Measures. The social distancing restriction for jurors was previously lifted in April 2022 so that jurors may be seated closer to each other during jury reporting, orientation, and selection process. Judges may continue to hold jury trials in their own courtroom. If more than two judges decide to use the trial courtrooms (set up with plexiglass dividers in the jury box) for jury trials, then priority will be given to criminal trials. Amended Temporary General Order 2022-02 suspended the requirement for face coverings during court proceedings. The COVID Community Level for both Clark County and Washoe County are currently “Low”. However, should this change, the Court will continue to look to the CDC for guidance.

Supplemental Non-Case Specific Questionnaire. The non-case specific questionnaire will be temporarily suspended, effective October 3, 2022, to give the clerk’s office an opportunity to examine how the process can be streamlined to reduce the workload for our jury coordinators and to avoid setting limits on the number of trials on each stack.