

## JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES



OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL COURT  
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**CHIEF JUDGE OF THE SALISH KOOTENAI TRIBAL COURT  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 20-02**

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The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes declared a State of Emergency in response to the growing spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) authorizing a coordinated response to reduce the risk of exposure to the Salish and Kootenai people.

With the rising number of confirmed cases, The Confederated Salish and Kootenai (CSKT) Tribal Council went on record to officially declare a State of Emergency exists within the exterior boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation due to the global outbreak of COVID-19, (coronavirus), pursuant to Resolution 20-086; and the Shelter in Place Order on March 27, 2020, activating an emergency response and implementing governmental services to essential services, restricting large gatherings, and urging closure of all school and educational facilities.

With the emerging number of confirmed cases and the spread of the coronavirus in communities within the State of Montana and Lake County, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council issued public health orders mandating a number of public health precautions, including sheltering in place.

The Chief Judge ordered temporary closure of the court and all court-related services beginning March 16, 2020, suspending normal operations in preparation for continued essential services to resume at a later date pursuant to Administrative Order 20-01.

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Court and the Judicial Branch are committed to the health and safety of the public and its staff as it provides essential services and maintains the rule of law. The Court, seeking to provide additional guidance in light of the evolving public health emergency, and being sufficiently advised, issues the foregoing:

IT IS ORDERED that all prior orders directed by the Chief Judge since the declaration of this public health emergency shall remain in effect until modified or withdrawn;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Court hereby suspends the payment of fines and fees for the months of April and May 2020. Payments can be made beginning June 1, 2020. Payments can be mailed in by money order or in-person if the Court is reopened to the public.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the CSKT Tribal Court will continue to accept filings by mail, and may accept filings by email for the duration of the current emergency to eliminate in-person filings. If a person is unable to submit a filing by mail or email, such person should call the Court for alternative filing instructions.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in addition to the methods presently allowed by Tribal Ordinances:

1. Documents may also be lawfully filed with the court by emailing a copy of the original document in pdf format to: [courtfilings@cskt.org](mailto:courtfilings@cskt.org). The Clerk shall acknowledge by email receipt of documents filed electronically.
2. Signatures on stipulations advise of rights, plea agreements and deferred prosecution agreements by Respondents or Defendants represented by the Tribal Defenders Office may be waived upon the Defender's statement the Respondent or Defendant agrees to the document filed.
3. Digital signatures are acceptable on pdf documents filed by email to the Court's inbox referenced above, as long as they are either; (a) a verified digital signature using Adobe Acrobat along with an attestation; or (b) the attorney or party has on file and Affidavit with the Clerk of Tribal Court showing their true signature, and the filed document contains an electronic copy of the attorney's or party's signature and an attestation.

In either case the document filed by email must include attestation in the following format: "I certify that the signature on this electronically filed document is my own true signature and I acknowledge that by signing this document I am subject to the same rules applicable to signing original documents with the Court."

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED in addition to the methods previously allowed by Tribal Ordinances, once cases have been filed, parties may also lawfully be served with documents in that case by email. The certificate of service for such documents should reflect the method of service used, and parties should keep confirmation of service if available. The Tribal Defender's Office shall be served by email and sending an email of the document in pdf format to [defenders@cskt.org](mailto:defenders@cskt.org). The Tribal Prosecutors shall be served by email and sending an email of the document in pdf format to [prosecutors@cskt.org](mailto:prosecutors@cskt.org).

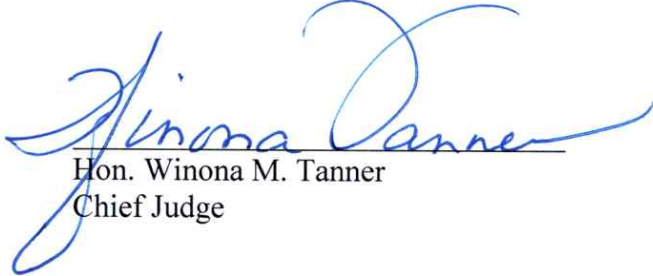
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall remain in effect until amended or withdrawn.

IT IS FUTHER ORDERED that this Order shall remain in effect until amended or withdrawn.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.



  
Hon. Winona M. Tanner  
Chief Judge