



## Administrative Office of the Courts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **District Court in Gallup to remain open but Magistrate Court closed until Monday afternoon because of emergency restrictions in the community**

GALLUP – The Eleventh Judicial District Court in Gallup will remain open but the McKinley County Magistrate Court is closed until Monday afternoon because of emergency restrictions imposed in the community by the governor.

To help control the spread of COVID-19, the governor today announced restrictions on travel and business operations in Gallup that will remain in place until noon, Monday, May 4.

The Magistrate Court will be closed until 1 p.m. on Monday. Hearings that had been set in the Magistrate Court for Monday morning are being rescheduled. The court had no hearings planned Friday afternoon.

“The temporary closure of the Magistrate Court recognizes the importance of taking additional precautions to protect the health and well-being of people in McKinley County because of COVID-19,” said Eleventh Judicial District Court Chief Judge Karen Townsend.

Magistrate courts across New Mexico typically handle a large number of cases, including traffic, DWI and misdemeanors as well as civil matters such as landlord-tenant cases. The District Court will remain open during regular business hours to ensure essential justice services are available during the emergency restrictions in Gallup.

Members of the public with questions can contact the District Court at 505-863-6816.

During New Mexico’s public health emergency, all state courts limit the number of people in courtrooms and other locations in a courthouse. Judges also conduct proceedings by audio and video teleconferencing to lessen the need for attorneys and litigants to appear in-person at courthouses.

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