

Hashkééjí Nahat'á Bahane'

A Newsletter of the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation

Wóózhch'ííD
2021



Tuba City Judicial District resumes pro se classes

The Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation is pleased to announce that Tuba City Judicial District is resuming pro se classes virtually.

The schedule is:

March 9, 2021: Probate

March 16, 2021: Probate

March 23, 2021: Guardianship of a Minor

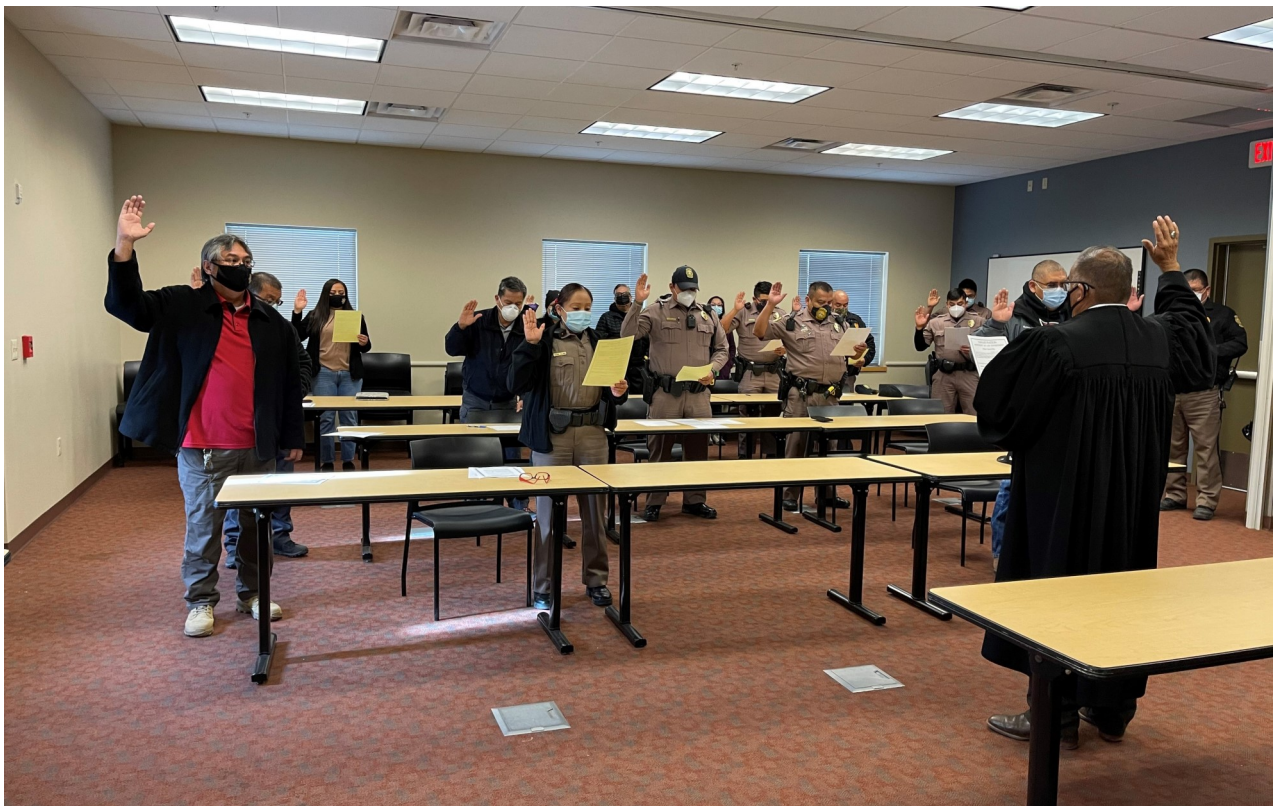
March 30, 2021: Name change, correction of record, declaration of name change.

“Pro se” is Latin for “for oneself” or “on one’s own behalf.” In court, pro se indicates when litigants do not have legal counsel and represent themselves in court. Many litigants in the Navajo Nation courts choose to represent themselves. Before the pandem-

ic, some of the judicial district staff attorneys held pro se legal clinics for those litigants.

The Navajo Nation Courts remain closed to the public, therefore, Tuba City Judicial District will be utilizing Skype for Business to conduct the classes virtually. Registration is required. The public may register with the Tuba City Office Technician at (928) 283-3140. Participants must mail a money order for \$5.25 for a pro se packet to the Court, which must be received before the date of the class.

The dates of classes are subject to change. Please confirm the class is taking place by contacting the court. ●



Tuba City Judicial District Court Judge Victor Clyde administered the yearly Oath of Office to 32 commissioned police officers on January 19 and 26, 2021. The Tuba City Judicial District extends appreciation to Navajo Nation Law Enforcement for their service.

HOW TO CONTACT THE NAVAJO NATION COURTS

WINDOW ROCK DISTRICT COURT *

P.O. Box 5520, Window Rock, AZ 86515
 Telephone: (928) 206-7469 or (928) 871-6626
 Fax: (928) 871-7560
 Email: nnwrcourt@navajo-nsn.gov

CHINLE DISTRICT COURT *

P.O. Box 547, Chinle, AZ 86503
 Telephone: (928) 674-2070
 Fax: (928) 674-2089
 Email: nnchcourt@navajo-nsn.gov

SHIPROCK DISTRICT COURT

P.O. Box 1168, Shiprock, NM 87420
 Telephone: (505) 368-1270
 Fax: (505) 368-1288
 Email: nnsrcourt@navajo-nsn.gov

CROWNPOINT DISTRICT COURT & PUEBLO PINTADO CIRCUIT COURT *

P.O. Box 6, Crownpoint, NM 87313
 Telephone: (505) 786-2072 or (928) 797-1542
 Fax: (505) 786-2086
 Email: nncpcourt@navajo-nsn.gov
 Email: nnppcourt@navajo-nsn.gov

KAYENTA DISTRICT COURT *

P.O. Box 2700, Kayenta, AZ 86033
 Telephone: (928) 697-5541
 Fax: (928) 697-5546
 Email: nnkycourt@navajo-nsn.gov

TUBA CITY DISTRICT COURT *

P.O. Box 725, Tuba City, AZ 86045
 Telephone: (928) 283-3140 or (928) 283-3145
 Fax: (928) 283-3158
 Email: nntccourt@navajo-nsn.gov

RAMAH DISTRICT COURT *

P.O. Box 309, Ramah, NM 87321
 Telephone: (505) 775-3218
 Fax: (505) 775-3399
 Email: nnrncourt@navajo-nsn.gov

DILKON DISTRICT COURT

HC 63 Box 787, Winslow, AZ 86047
 Telephone: (928) 551-2385
 Fax: 928-657-8146
 Email: nndkcourt@navajo-nsn.gov

ANETH DISTRICT COURT *

P.O. Box 320, Montezuma Creek, UT 84534
 Telephone: (435) 651-3545
 Fax: (435) 651-3546
 Email: anethcourt@navajo-nsn.gov

ALAMO COURT *

P.O. Box 5458, Alamo, NM 87825
 Telephone: (575) 854-2668
 Fax: (575) 854-2660
 Email: nnalcourt@navajo-nsn.gov

TO'HAJIILEE COURT*

P.O. Box 3101-A, To'Hajiilee, NM 87026
 Telephone: (505) 908-2817
 Fax: (505) 908-2819
 Email: nntocourt@navajo-nsn.gov

DZIL YIJIIN DISTRICT COURT *

P.O. Box 129, Pinon, AZ 86510
 Telephone: (928) 725-3781
 Fax: (928) 725-3786
 Email: nnodycourt@navajo-nsn.gov

SUPREME COURT

P.O. Box 520, Window Rock, AZ 86515
 Telephone: (505) 567-4448
 Fax: (928) 871-7016
 Email: nnsupremecourt@navajo-nsn.gov

PROBATION SERVICES

Chinle/Kayenta/Dzil Yijiin/Tuba City:(928) 421-3475
 Crownpoint: (505) 393-5481, (505) 862-9064
 Shiprock: (505) 354-1528, (505) 609-8278, (505) 750-4640
 Aneth: (435) 315-2038
 To'Hajiilee/Alamo: (505) 280-2186
 Window Rock: (505) 901-9840
 Dilkon: (480) 788-7170
 Ramah: (505) 862-9250

* HAS DROP BOX FOR DOCUMENT DROP OFF

Navajo Nation Courts offer essential services

The Courts and programs of the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation continue to operate during the public health emergency. The Courts must still provide services that are required by Navajo Nation law as the Courts are tasked with protecting the individual rights of each person as enumerated in the Navajo Bill of Rights and as recognized under Diné Bi Beenahaz'áanii.

The Judicial Branch continues to address the public health emergency by having only minimal staff in all judicial facilities and not opening the doors to the public at this time.

Though the doors are closed to the public, essential services continue to be provided. The Courts are accepting all case filings. These filings may be accepted by mail, email, fax, and/or by drop box at those facilities that have the boxes outside their court facilities. People must call the Court to ensure that documents are received. Those who are unable to submit a filing by the acceptable means should call the Court to arrange for alternate filing instructions.

Hearings for essential cases that have statutorily required timelines are being held by teleconference or telephone. Please contact the Court for more information. Essential cases include:

(1) All criminal proceedings concerning an incarcerated

defendant (i.e., arraignment, bail hearings, revocation hearings, etc.)

(2) All proceedings concerning detained juveniles, abused or neglected minors (i.e., shelter care hearings);

(3) Habeas corpus actions;

(4) Involuntary commitment hearings (i.e., mental health commitments, guardianships, and other civil commitments);

(5) Extraditions and federal detainers;

(6) Order to Show Cause proceedings;

(7) Applications for orders of protection and matters of enforcement;

(8) Applications for injunctive relief; and

(9) Proceedings essential to the public health state of emergency.

An application form for Domestic Abuse Protection Order is available on the Judicial Branch website.

Civil traffic fines for most courts may be paid online at <https://www.justiceweb.navajo-nsn.gov>. All other fines or fees may be paid by mailing a money order to the respective Court.

The Judicial Branch thanks the public for their patience as the Branch responds to the public health emergency. ●



Judge William J. Platero administered the oath of office to new Navajo Nation Police Officers during the Class 55 Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, January 2, 2021.

Photo courtesy of Navajo Nation Police Department.

Information on applications for protection orders

When a petition is filed, the motion for temporary protection order is either approved or denied immediately without notice to the respondent. Whether approved or denied, the petition for Domestic Abuse Protection Order is addressed by the Court when service of process is made upon the respondent within the 15 day timeline. The courts are guided by the Domestic Abuse Protection Act in Title 9 of the Navajo Nation Code and the Navajo Rules for Domestic Violence Proceedings adopted by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court.

HOW TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SERVICE OF PROCESS

There is an "Application for Protection from Domestic Abuse and Service of Process" that may be downloaded from the www.navajocourts.org website.

The following Courts have protection order applications available at the courts: Aneth, Crownpoint, Dził Yijiin, Shiprock, Window Rock, Chinle, To'Hajiilee/Alamo, Dilkon and Ramah Judicial Districts. At Crownpoint, Shiprock, Dził Yijiin, Kayenta and Window Rock, blank petitions are available in an envelope or clear document holder outside the court building. Dilkon may be called to request pick up of an application.

If you are not able to obtain an application online, the following courts will email, mail or fax to you upon request: Chinle, Kayenta, Window Rock, Crownpoint, Dilkon and Tuba City Judicial District. Shiprock Judicial District will email or mail upon request.

There are protection order applications available at the local Navajo Nation police station in the following districts: Ramah, Crownpoint, Kayenta, Window Rock, Shiprock, Dilkon and Tuba City.

At Dilkon, Shiprock, Crownpoint and To'Hajiilee/Alamo Judicial Districts, applications for protection order will be accepted over the phone if petitioner has no access to print out forms.

Other places where people may get protection order applications:

1. Ramah Judicial District: local Social Services
2. Dził Yijiin Judicial District: Pinon chapter house, Navajo County Sheriff's deputies, local Division of Social Services, Pinon Health Center
3. Aneth Judicial District: Utah Navajo Health System, Inc. Victim Advocates – located at Monument Valley and Montezuma Creek Community Health Cen-

ters

4. Alamo Navajo School Board Social Services and Wellness Center
5. Kayenta Office of the Prosecutor
6. Tuba City Judicial District: DNA office
7. Window Rock Judicial District: You may contact the victim advocate with Division of Social Services at (928) 206-1532 for assistance.
8. DNA Legal Services, Window Rock, Arizona

Emergency Temporary Protection Orders outside of regular court business hours may be obtained through the Navajo Nation Police Department.

HOW TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTS

The application can be filed during court business hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The applications are normally accepted by email, fax, U.S. mail, and/or in the drop box located outside the court. Any documents filed outside the court's operating hours are received the next business day.

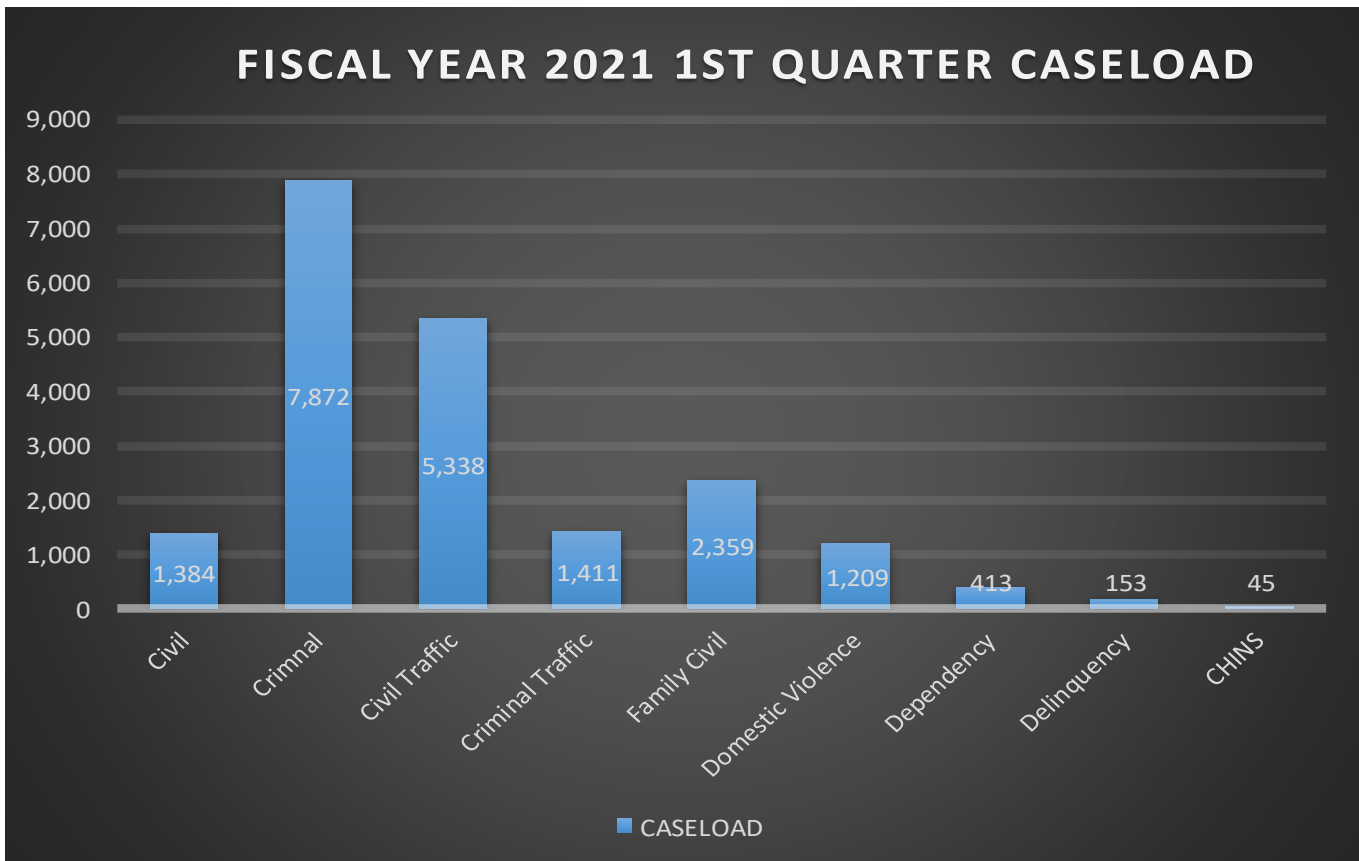
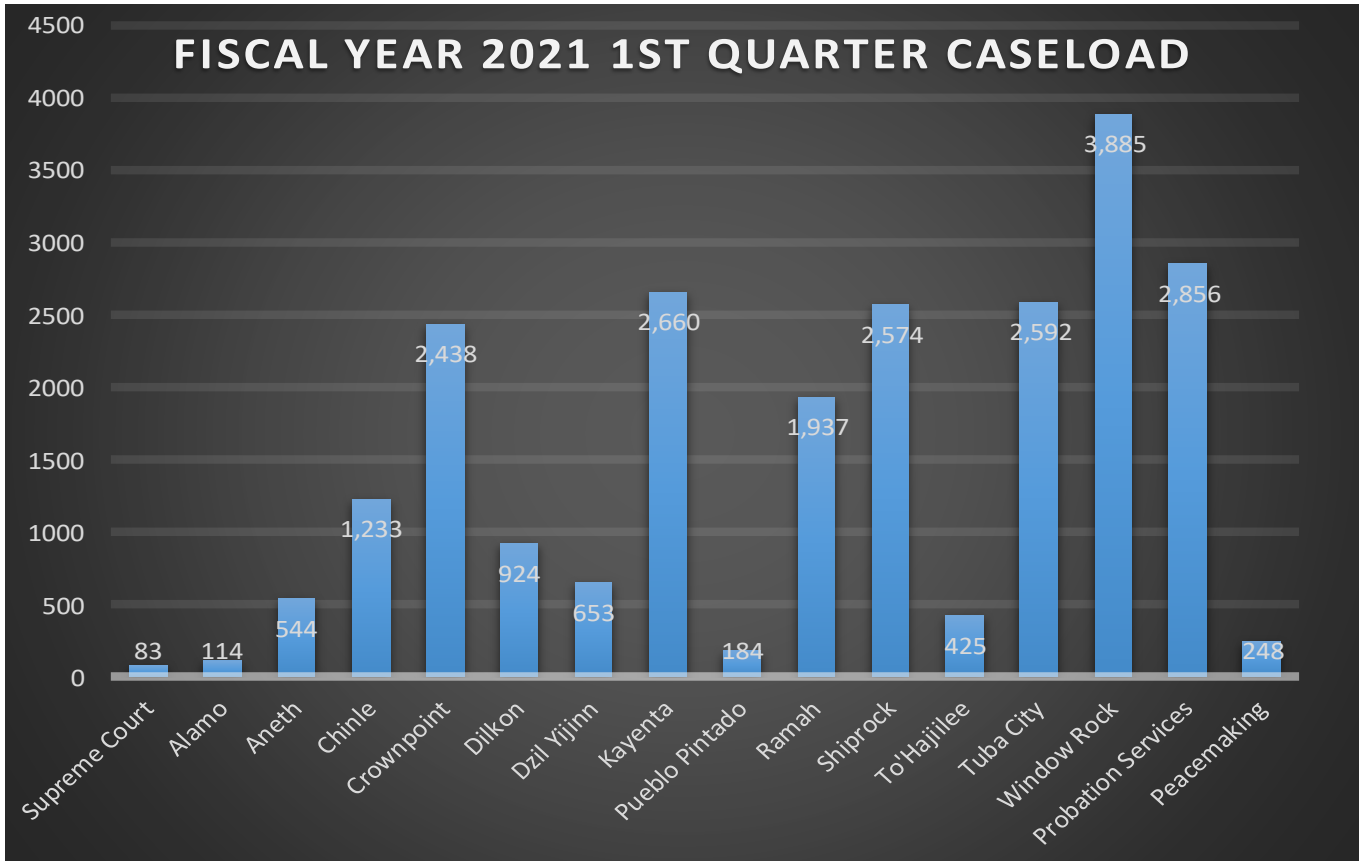
If sending documents by email, note that the Navajo Nation uses a sender verification system designed to eliminate spam, bulk and malicious emails. If you email the courts from a non-Navajo Nation email address, please make sure to verify your email address by following the instructions sent back to you by email. This will allow for your email to go through to the intended recipient. Also, if sending documents by email or fax, the public is asked to contact the court by telephone to ensure the email or fax is received.

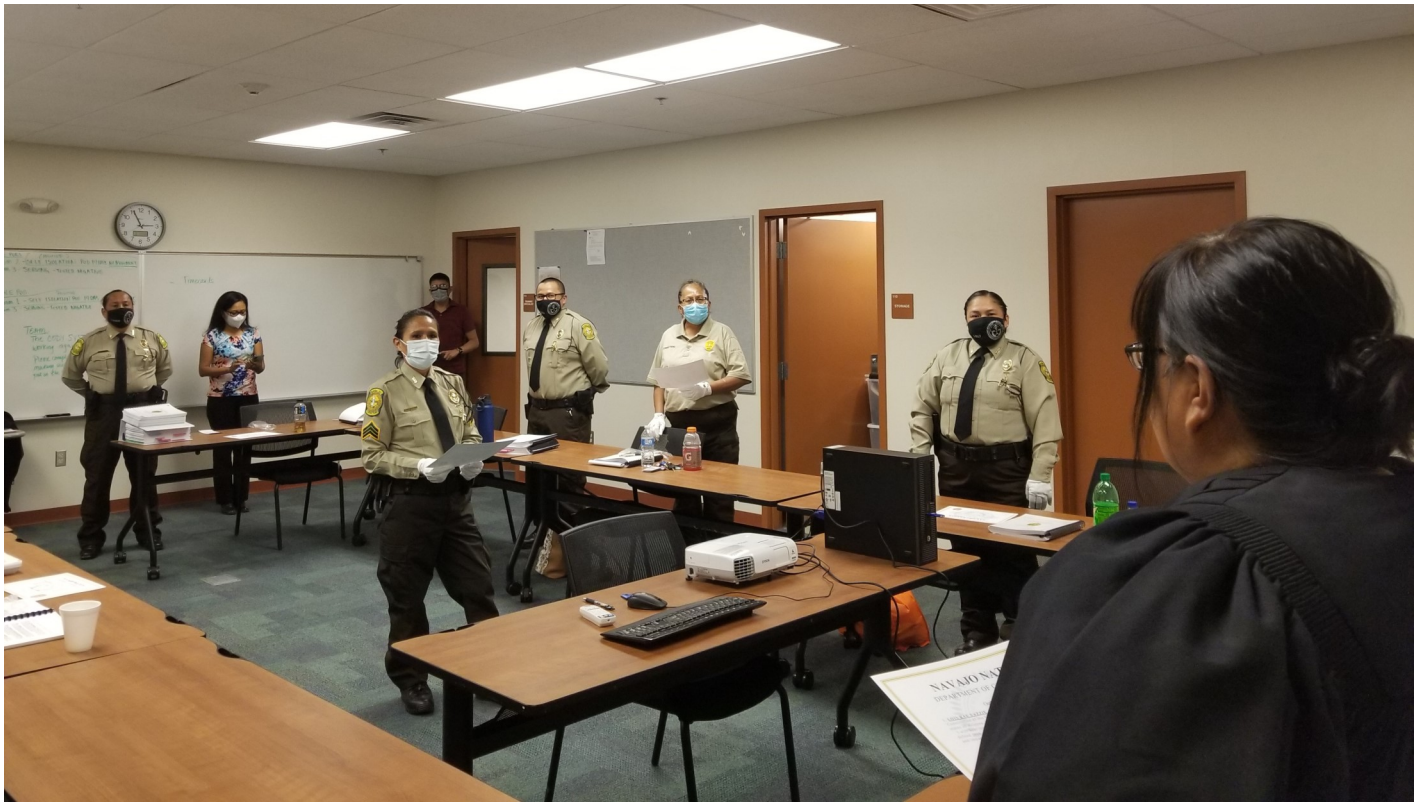
Applications can also be placed in the drop box outside the court houses. All Judicial Districts except Tuba City, Shiprock and Dilkon Judicial Districts have drop boxes; these courts are currently working on obtaining drop boxes.

Applications for protection order can be sent to the court by taking photographs or screenshots of the documents and sending by email as long as the form is readable at Dilkon, Kayenta, Shiprock, To'Hajiilee/Alamo and Tuba City Judicial Districts.

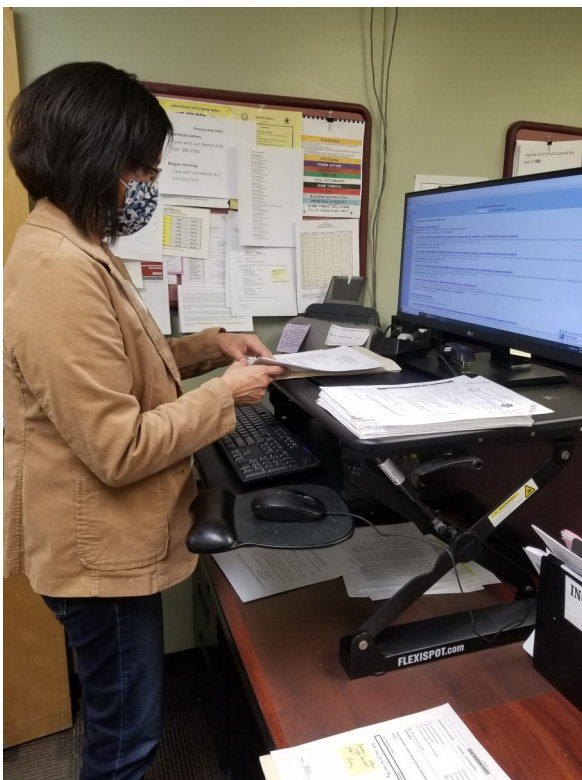
If you need further assistance, please contact the local district court. As a reminder, the Pueblo Pintado Circuit Court is operating from the Crownpoint Judicial District Court facility until further notice. Please be patient as only a limited number of staff are working in order to protect the health and safety of the public and employees. ●

Judicial Branch Statistics





ABOVE: Kayenta District Court Judge Letitia Stover administering the Oath of Office to the Kayenta Department of Correction Officers. BELOW LEFT: Kayenta District Court Clerk Lavern Joe at her desk wearing her personal protection equipment. Face masks are required in all judicial facilities. BELOW RIGHT: Plexiglass has been installed in the Kayenta District Court hearing room.



How our Courts are responding to the pandemic



LEFT: Chinle Judicial District Court staff responded to the pandemic by adding modifications to enforce social distancing requirements in the courthouse over the summer. BELOW: Similarly, Tuba City Judicial District was able to have modifications to the entrance of the courthouse to ensure social distancing guidelines are adhered to within the facility.



From Kayenta District Court
"The Ring doorbell WiFi device is working really well. We are able to communicate with the public through the video/audio doorbell to answer their inquiries without any physical interaction on part of the staff." LaVonne Yazzie, Court Administrator

CONTACT INFORMATION

PEACEMAKING PROGRAM

CENTRAL PEACEMAKING
DAWNELL BEGAY, OT
drbegay@navajo-nsn.gov
(928) 797-1329

ALAMO PEACEMAKING
ANNABELL PINO, TPS
apino@navajo-nsn.gov
(928) 797-1370

ANETH PEACEMAKING
STANLEY NEZ, TPS
stanleynez@navajo-nsn.gov
(928) 797-1371

CHINLE PEACEMAKING
LAVEENA BEGAY, TPS
laveenambegay@navajo-nsn.gov
(928) 797-1367
VALERIE BROWN, OT
vbrown@navajo-nsn.gov
(928) 797-1373

CROWNPOINT PEACEMAKING
DARLENE DESIDERIO, TPS
ddesiderio@navajo-nsn.gov
(928) 797-1378

DILKON PEACEMAKING
HARRY BEGAY, TPS
hbegay@navajo-nsn.gov
(928) 797-1379
LORETTA YAZZIE, OT
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(928) 797-1380

DZIL YIJIIN PEACEMAKING
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(928) 797-1381

KAYENTA PEACEMAKING
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cstanlev@navajo-nsn.gov
(928) 797-1368

RAMAH PEACEMAKING
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(928) 797-1316

SHIPROCK PEACEMAKING
SARA PIERCE, TPS
smpierce@navajo-nsn.gov
(928) 797-1382
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cfoster@navajo-nsn.gov
(928) 797-1317

TO'HAIILEE PEACEMAKING
ELMER YAZZIE, TPS
elmeryazzie@navajo-nsn.gov
(928) 797-1321

TUBA CITY PEACEMAKING
ROSIENE CHARLEY, TPS
rcharley@navajo-nsn.gov
(928) 797-1322

WINDOW ROCK PEACEMAKING
JIMMIE BURBANK, TPS
jburbank@navajo-nsn.gov
(928) 797-1325
GLENDA BEGAY, OT
glendabegay@navajo-nsn.gov
(928) 797-1327





Seeking applicants for District Court Judge

Judicial District Court, Navajo Nation Wide. The District Court Judge is responsible for presiding over civil, criminal and family court cases; and provides policy direction and guidance in the operation of the Judicial District.

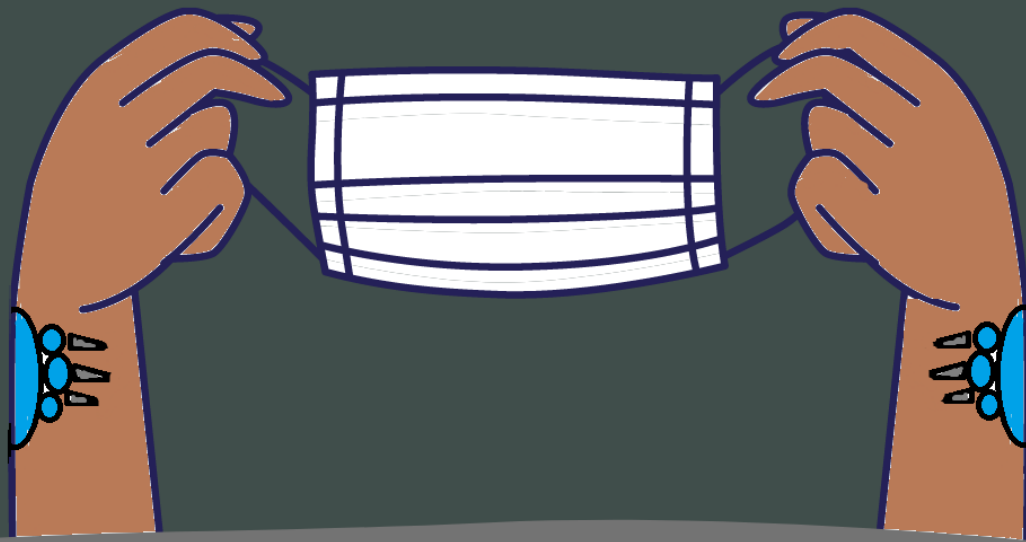


For more information, please call the Office of Human Resources at (928) 797-1493 or (928) 797-1525 or email cswatchman@navajo-nsn.gov, mcoln@navajo-nsn.gov, or vupshaw@navajo-nsn.gov.

Please visit www.courts.navajo-nsn.gov for details on qualifications, job description and how to apply.



FACE MASKS REQUIRED IN ALL JUDICIAL FACILITIES



NOTICE

In compliance with Judicial Branch Administration Order No. 21-2020 (April 16, 2020), all Judicial Branch employees and all individuals two (2) years of age and older shall wear a mask or cloth face covering consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control while in Judicial Branch facilities at all times with no exception. Judicial Branch facilities are currently closed to the public until further notice.

EFFECTIVE APRIL 16, 2020 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.