



City of Hobbs Contact:  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Hobbs Municipal Court to Temporarily Close to the Public**

The Hobbs Municipal Court located at 301 N. Turner Street in Hobbs, New Mexico provides a vital service in our community to uphold the rule of law and deliver essential services to the public. However, the facility will be closed to the public, effective Tuesday, January 18, 2022 due to current staff shortages caused by COVID exposures.

The Court is temporarily scheduled to reopen Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Available staff will continue to work cases and coordinate with local law enforcement regarding charges, as well as have someone present to handle services over the phone, such as bill pay and answering general questions. Online payments will be available at [hobbsnm.org](http://hobbsnm.org). Any cases scheduled to be heard by the Court within that time frame will be continued by the Court and reset for a later date. Notice of the rescheduled date will be delivered to the parties at their last known address.

For questions related to the closure, contact the Court at (575)397-9272.

*On March 17, 2020, the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico issued and subsequently amended Order No. 20-8500-002 which states in part that municipal courts in New Mexico may close if the building in which a court operates is closed by county or municipal authorities or if the presiding judge in the court chooses to do so, provided a notice is posted at the closed courthouse with the locations and phone numbers of the nearest magistrate and district courts and provided that the public and the chief district judge in the judicial district is given advanced notice of any such closure.*

*Pursuant to Rule 8-506(C)(5) exceptional circumstances exist that are beyond the control of the prosecution or the court and said exceptional circumstances prevent cases set for trial from Tuesday, January 18, 2022, to Friday, January 21, 2022, from being heard within that time period and no defendant will be unfairly prejudiced by an extension of the time for commencement of trial as mandated by Rule 5-506(B) NMRA.*

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