

In the Circuit Court of the First Judicial District Laramie County, State of Wyoming

Denise Nau
Circuit Court Judge

Thomas Lee
Circuit Court Judge

Antoinette Williams
Circuit Court Judge

Emily Fowler
Clerk of Court



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Laramie County Circuit Court Order Regarding COVID-19 Pandemic

THIS MATTER came before the Court pursuant to the Supreme Court's Order Adopting Temporary Plan to Address Health Risks Posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

THEREFORE, pursuant to that Plan and the guidelines set forth therein, all "in-person" proceedings are suspended beginning March 19th, **EXCEPT** the following:

1. All initial appearances for incarcerated individuals will be conducted via videoconference.
2. Preliminary hearings will be held. Attorneys are encouraged, pursuant to W.R.Cr.P. 43.1, to obtain client's consent to conduct these hearing via videoconferencing.
3. For all defendants charged with a misdemeanor and represented by an attorney, written pleas of not guilty are strongly encouraged. If a defendant demands an in-court appearance for an arraignment, counsel must notify the court and the court will schedule a special setting.
4. Any request for bond modification shall be considered only on written motion accompanied by proposed bond conditions. Attorneys may use the Court's preprinted bond forms.
5. When appropriate, written guilty pleas and sentences are strongly encouraged. The written guilty plea and sentence shall contain all necessary advisements. The court will not sign any judgment and sentence in any Domestic Violence related cases or driving under the influence cases without the proposed sentence being accompanied by appropriate evaluations.
6. Arraignments involving individuals who are out of custody will be conducted by telephonic means or vacated.
7. Other matters of a criminal nature will be addressed on a case-by-case basis and will be set for an in-court hearing either as time and conditions permit or if absolutely necessary.
8. Civil protection orders for domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault will be set on the docket at the reviewing judge's discretion.
9. Scheduling conferences: defense counsel shall submit the court's scheduling conference form and submit the form to the court no later than 4:00 p.m. on the scheduling conference date. The form can be obtained by contacting the clerk.

FURTHER, pursuant to the guidelines set forth in the Supreme Court's Order referenced above, the only individuals allowed in Court during any hearing will be the attorneys, parties, necessary witnesses, victims and essential court personnel. Other individuals will not be permitted in the Courtroom.

FURTHER, all civil and small claims matters currently scheduled through May 1st, 2020 are continued until further notice of the court. Matters will be accepted for filing but will not be set for hearing until after May 1st.

FURTHER, all criminal trials set before May 1st, shall be and hereby are continued pursuant to W.R.Cr.P. Rule 48(b)(4)(B)(iii). The Court specifically finds that continuance of any trial beyond 180 days is necessary in the due administration of justice. If a defendant objects to the continuance of trial, defendant shall submit, in writing, his objection and supporting argument. Upon receipt of the objection *and* supporting argument, the court will set a hearing on the motion.

FURTHER, all pleadings in both civil or criminal cases be filed by fax or email in accordance with W.R.C.P. Rule 5(e). The requirements of Rule 5(e) are expanded to allow filing of documents exceeding 10 pages. Rule 4 of the Rules for Fees and Costs of the Circuit Court shall be waived during the effective period of this order. Email filings shall be mailed to: cccys@courts.state.wy.us. Litigants should call to ensure the pleadings have been received.

DATED THIS 25 day of March 2020.


Denise Nau


Thomas L. Lee


Antoinette Williams