## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT SHERIDAN AND JOHNSON COUNTY, STATE OF WYOMING

In the Matter of the Criminal Docket of the )
Circuit Court for the Fourth Judicial District )
Regarding COVID-19 Pandemic )

## ORDER ADOPTING TEMPORARY PLAN TO ADDRESS MEDIA COVERAGE FOR CRIMINAL MATTERS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

This mater came before the Court on its own motion and in response to the COVID-19

Pandemic. On March 18, 2020 the Wyoming Supreme Court suspended "All in-person

proceedings in all Circuit Courts as of the close of business on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 to

Friday, April 10, 2020." The Circuit Court of the Fourth Judicial District for Sheridan County and

Johnson County has issued Pandemic Orders as they relate to Court proceedings. The Sheridan

County Courthouse and the Johnson County Judicial Center are closed to the public. The Circuit

Court ORDERS that the following measures be implemented during the pandemic closures and

any extension of those closures:

- 1. All Court proceedings are held via Microsoft Teams.
- Criminal Defendant's housed in the Sheridan County Detention facility appear via Microsoft
  Teams video. Other defendants appear either by video or telephone through the Teams
  system.
- Misdemeanor arraignments and Felony initial appearances are scheduled in Sheridan at 2:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Friday and in Buffalo on Mondays 9:00.
   Depending on the number of arrests these may also be held on other days and times as needed.

- 4. Felony Preliminary Hearings are scheduled in Sheridan at 1:00 pm on Tuesdays and in Buffalo at 11:00 a.m on Monday. These are occasionally waived or moved to a more convenient date and time.
- 5. The media may participate by monitoring the hearing video and/or audio live stream.
- 6. Media companies and/or individual media members must provide the Circuit Court

  Clerk with a point of contact e-mail to which invitations to Microsoft Teams may be

  sent so that the member or media group member may access the court proceeding.
- 7. Electronic recording or replication of the Court Teams video and/or audio stream is strictly prohibited. No participant may copy, record or otherwise reproduce the audio or video content of a court hearing being observed through the Teams platform. Unless specifically allowed by the Court under Wyoming Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 53. Violations of this Order are subject to the contempt powers of the Court.
- 8. Anyone observing the Court hearing will have their video and audio muted and will not be seen or heard on the Teams lives stream.
- All hearings in the Circuit Court are recorded through the official recording system as provided by W.S. §5-9-139.
- 10. Media may obtain copies of court filings and audio recordings by contacting the Clerk of Circuit Court for Sheridan County at 307-674-2940 or Johnson County at 307-684-5720. (W.S. §5-9-153)

Dated this 31st day of March 2020.

Judge of the Circuit Court