

The State of Wyoming First Judicial District



STEVEN K. SHARPE
DISTRICT JUDGE

April 7, 2020

KIM ERICKSON
JUDICIAL ASSISTANT

LARAMIE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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TAMMY FLEMING
COURT REPORTER

RE: Laramie County District Court's Response to COVID-19

Members of the Wyoming State Bar:

In response to the developing COVID-19 crisis, the undersigned judges of the First Judicial District entered an Order on March 19, 2020, adopting in its entirety the Wyoming Supreme Court's *Order Adopting Temporary Plan to Address Health Risks Posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic*. On April 1, 2020, the Wyoming Supreme Court extended the effective date of that Order to May 31, 2020. Without repeating its contents, we again adopt that Order in its entirety. The Supreme Court also extended the effective date of its *COVID-19 Emergency Order Adopting Procedures for Remote Administration of Oaths and Witnesses, Verification of Guilty Pleas, and for Paper Filings* to May 31, 2020, and again, without repeating its contents, we adopt that Order in its entirety.

Until May 31, 2020, counsel and parties must conduct their business with the Laramie County District Courts as follows:

Use of video or phone conferencing:

Civil matters:-- Consistent with the Supreme Court's directives, this court will only allow in-court proceedings strictly related to: 1) emergency child custody orders; 2) emergency child protection issues; 3) proceedings related to petitions for temporary injunctive relief; 4) proceedings related to relief from abuse, including orders of protection; 5) proceedings related to emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable persons; 6) proceedings related to COVID-19 pandemic; and 7) other special exceptions as approved by the Chief Justice or one of the district court judges. *Before the court will authorize an in-person proceeding in these cases, the party requesting such a hearing must demonstrate, through affidavit or other acceptable proof, that (1) the proceeding is a genuine emergency, and (2) that the proceeding cannot be appropriately conducted by telephone or video conferencing.*

All other civil hearings and proceedings will be conducted by video or telephone conferencing. Pursuant to the Wyoming Supreme Court's April 1, 2020 Order, all attorneys, litigants, witnesses, and observers will be precluded from making in-person appearances at the courthouse. Any filing for which a hearing is requested must be accompanied by a proposed *Order Setting Hearing* which includes an appropriate blank space to be completed by court staff with the applicable video or telephone- conferencing information.

Any civil jury trials presently scheduled for April and May of 2020 will be vacated by the district court and rescheduled for a later date.

Criminal proceedings:– The District Courts of Laramie County intend to follow the expanded use of video conferencing which the Wyoming Supreme Court approved in its April 1, 2020 Order. Accordingly, the courts will initially schedule all arraignments, re-arraignments, probation revocation arraignments, probation evidentiary hearings and sentencings by video conferencing. If the defendant objects or does not intend to consent to having such a hearing by video conferencing, his attorney may contact the appropriate judicial assistant at least two business days in advance of the setting, and the court will reschedule the matter for a later date when the defendant can personally appear. The court will attempt to protect every defendant's right to a speedy trial. If the court intends to continue a trial beyond 180 days from arraignment, it will notify the defendant pursuant to W.R.Cr.P. 48(b)((4)(C) of its intent to set the matter more than 180 days from arraignment and provide the defendant with an opportunity to show in writing how the setting will prejudice his defense.

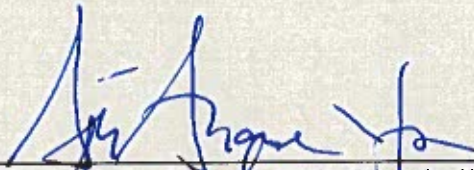
Technology - Counsel and parties should familiarize themselves with the technology utilized by the Court. Microsoft Teams is the program utilized by our audio/visual equipment and all appearances will require use of compatible devices, including the availability of a camera in all criminal cases.

Special scheduling issues - As reflected in the Supreme Court's orders, each judge has discretion to address special problems that may arise. Addressing such special problems through pleadings remains appropriate. Some matters, however, may be addressed by contacting the Judicial Assistants.

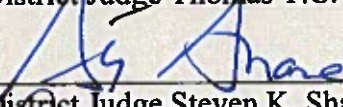
Judicial Assistants - As always, contact with the appropriate Judicial Assistant to resolve questions, inquire about the details of settings, inform the Court of anticipated problems, and the like, is encouraged. Parties should use email for such contacts.

Judge Campbell's J.A.	April Erickson	aerickson@courts.state.wy.us
Judge Sharpe's J.A.	Kim Erickson	kerickson@courts.state.wy.us
Judge Rogers' J.A.	Kim Wakefield	kwakefield@courts.state.wy.us
Judge Froelicher's J.A.	Sue Ellen Essert	sessert@courts.state.wy.us

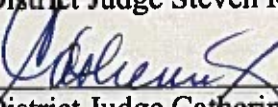
Filings - Matters specific to the filing of documents and any special allowances in that regard remain the business of the Clerk of District Court.



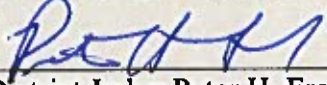
District Judge Thomas T.C. Campbell



District Judge Steven K. Sharpe



District Judge Catherine R. Rogers



District Judge Peter H. Froelicher