

FILED

BY Jimmy Clarke

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT APR 22 2020

WITHIN AND FOR LINCOLN COUNTY, WYOMING

KENNETH D. ROBERTS
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT
3rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT
LINCOLN COUNTY, STATE OF WYOMING

IN RE: CONTINUANCES DUE TO)
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS AND.)
COVID-19 DISEASE.)
)

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2020-03

**ORDER EXTENDING COVID-19 EMERGENCY ORDER
REQUIRING ALL HEARINGS TO BE CONDUCTED BY VIDEO
AND/OR TELEPHONE TO MAY 31, 2020**

THIS MATTER comes before the Court on its own motion. In General Order No. 2020-02 that was entered on the 23rd day of March, 2020, this Court found that there are significant health risks due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Because of those health risks this Court found it necessary and reasonable that all hearings in this Court were to be conducted by video and/or telephone from that day through April 30, 2020.

Prior to the entry of that Order, the Wyoming Supreme Court entered its *Order Adopting Temporary Plan to Address Health Risks Posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic*. On March 26, 2020, after the entry of General Order 2020-02 by this Court, the Wyoming Supreme Court entered its *COVID-19 Emergency Order Adopting Procedures For Remote Administration of Oaths And Witness, Verification of Guilty Pleas, And For Paper Filings on March 26, 2020*. That Order was effective from March 26, 2020 to April 10, 2020.

On April 1, 2020, the Wyoming Supreme Court entered its *Order Extending COVID-19 Emergency Orders To May 31, 2020*.

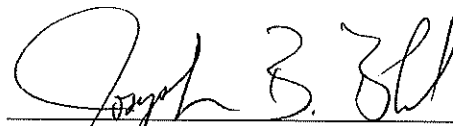
Recognizing the need to continue to promote the general welfare and public health in Wyoming while providing for continuing court functions, this Court must consider the heightened risk for contact and spreading of the virus if any in-person hearings resume at this time. While balancing the fact that remote proceedings will not be of the quality or character of in-person hearings with the fact that in-person hearings will endanger the health of the parties, their attorneys, witnesses, the court staff, and the families, friends and people each of those individuals will have

contact with, this Court finds it necessary to continue to conduct all hearings by video and/or telephone. No litigant, party, attorney, or witness will be allowed to appear in court unless specifically allowed. This Court further maintains its prior findings that jury proceedings are inadvisable at this time. That will allow this trial court to remain open while minimizing the risk to litigants, attorneys, staff, their families, and their communities. Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Any provision ordered in General Order No. 2020-01 that has not been previously changed or modified will remain in place.
2. Any provision ordered in General Order No. 2020-02 that has not been previously changed or modified will remain in place.
3. In light of the nationwide and statewide public health restrictions and orders of the Wyoming Supreme Court, the duration of this Court's Order requiring all hearings to be conducted by video and/or telephone, is extended and shall remain in effect until May 31, 2020 unless otherwise ordered.

DATED this 22nd day April, 2020.



JOSEPH B. BLUEMEL
District Court Judge