

GOSHEN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT OPERATIONS DURING COURTHOUSES CLOSURE

Updated April 6, 2020

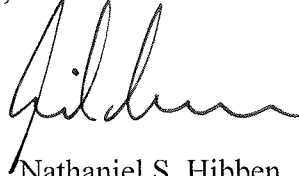
1. The County Commissioners have closed the Courthouse to the general public.
2. Although the Courthouse is closed, the Circuit Court (a State of Wyoming office) is conducting official business. Generally, all Circuit Court hearings are conducted by telephone or through video conferencing. In limited circumstances, the Circuit Court is conducting in-person hearings.
3. A schedule of Circuit Court hearings will be taped to the north doors of the County Courthouse each week. This schedule will be updated as necessary. Please bear in mind that the schedule changes daily. Any person desiring to know the status of a scheduled hearing may call the Court at (307) 532-2938 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and speak with a clerk. Although the public generally may not attend in-person, the public may call the Court and attend by telephone or video. Please call the Court for details.
4. MEDIA and PRESS: May enter the Courtroom. Please call the Court to obtain access to the Courthouse.
5. JURY TRIALS: No jury trials are being held until after May 31, 2020.
6. CIVIL CASES: The public may continue to file cases, including small claims cases. However, all trials will be set after May 31, 2020. Other hearings in civil matters will be held by telephone or video, if feasible.
 - a. Filings: The Court has suspended the fee for fax / e-filing. Parties are encouraged to file pleadings by fax or email until May 31, 2020 (the original pleading must be mailed to the Court, as well).
7. CRIMINAL CASES: The Court generally is conducting hearings in criminal cases by video. These hearings include initial hearings, arraignments, and preliminary hearings. However, Defendants and counsel must be present in-person for a preliminary hearing unless a defendant waives the right to be physically present. Bond modification hearings are generally conducted by video. Bond and probation revocation initial hearings are conducted by video; adjudicatory hearings are held in-person.
 - a. Defendants arrested and in-custody are seen by video within 72 hours of arrest.
 - b. Pre-trial conferences are held by video or telephone. Defendants are excused from attending.
 - c. Change of Plea: Where applicable, the Court encourages written changes of plea.
8. EVICTIONS (FED): All parties should arrange to appear by telephone or video conferencing. Exhibits should be filed with the Court and opposing party in advance of trial.
9. ORDERS OF PROTECTION and DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: The Court reviews all petitions for Orders of Protection as soon as practicable. Hearings are conducted in-person and both parties must be physically present, unless the Court orders otherwise.
10. FORFEITABLE CITATIONS: May be paid online at www.citepayusa.com. This means you are paying the fine without going to court.
 - a. If you contest the citation, you must enter a written Not Guilty plea and post bond equal to the bond schedule amount listed on the citation.

- b. If you fail to enter a Not Guilty plea and post bond, or pay the forfeitable amount, by the date indicated on your citation, your citation is overdue. Court staff will then generate a report and send that report to the Wyoming Department of Transportation for further action.
- c. If you fail to post bond or pay the forfeitable amount listed on your citation, WYDOT (or other licensing agency) may issue sanctions against your driver's license through the Non-Resident Violator Compact ("NRVC").

11. MUST-APPEAR CITATIONS: If a citation is marked "Must Appear":

- a. The party may enter a Guilty plea in writing. Paperwork can be obtained from the clerks. Please call (307)532-2938 to obtain the paperwork.
- b. If the party intends to enter a Not Guilty plea, your arraignment will be continued until after May 31, 2020.

DATED this 6th day of April, 2020.



Nathaniel S. Hibben
Circuit Court Judge