

THE STATE OF WYOMING NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



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Via email: editor@jhnewsandguide.com; courts@jhnewsandguide.com; info@buckrail.com

Re: Public and Media Access to District Court Proceedings

Dear Ms. Mieure, JH News & Guide Editors, and JH Buckrail:

Thank you for your continued coverage of the COVID-19 outbreaks and community efforts in response to the pandemic. Your role is essential in our community. As you know, Wyoming's district courts are open to the public, inclusive of the media, for all proceedings that are not deemed confidential by law. It is important that those proceedings remain open to the public and to you despite significant changes in court operations during the pandemic should you or anyone else want to attend. Physical access to court facilities is limited but remote access is available to you and the public.

The District Court's weekly calendar of hearings will be posted (1) on the District Court Clerk's website and (2) on the courthouse door. During the COVID-19 pandemic, most district court hearings will be held by video conference. Some in-person hearings may be held if in-person appearances are required by law, such as when the constitution requires an in-person appearance. However, courthouse access to those hearings may be restricted. Pursuant to a resolution by the Teton County Commissioners, the courthouse doors are currently locked, with limited exceptions for public entry. However, all hearings can still be attended by audio or video. Any members of the public, including you as the media, who wish to attend any District Court hearings by audio or video should contact the Court's Judicial Assistant at mdearing@courts.state.wy.us by 12 p.m. (noon) two working days before the hearing and provide an email address. The Court will then provide an electronic invitation to the audio or video conference and instructions for how to attend.

If this protocol changes during the pandemic, we will reach out to you with updated information. Thank you again for your professionalism and hard work during the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Timothy C. Day
District Judge