

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

TETON COUNTY, STATE OF WYOMING

ORDER PERMITTING ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS

1. On March 18, 2020 the Wyoming Supreme Court issued an *Order Adopting Temporary Plan to Address Health Risks Posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic*. The Order is available at: <http://www.courts.state.wy.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-Order.pdf>
2. The Court's Order is effective March 18, 2020 through April 10, 2020.
3. Paragraph 1 of the Supreme Court's Order states, "All in-person proceedings in all Circuit and District Courts * * * should be suspended[.]" Paragraph 1 then lists certain exceptions. The relevant exceptions for the Circuit Court are:
 - a. Proceedings necessary to protect constitutional rights of criminal defendants, including bond-related matters for incarcerated individuals;

* * *
 - c. Proceedings related to relief from abuse, including but not limited to orders of protection;

* * *
 - b. Other exceptions * * * deemed necessary by a * * * circuit judge.
4. Paragraph 2 states, "Judges are encouraged to use telephonic or video technology for all other statutorily and/or constitutionally required hearings, including arraignments and Title 25 hearings."
5. Rule 43.1 of the Wyoming Rules of Criminal Procedure authorizes the use of videoconferencing in certain proceedings. The court routinely conducts initial appearances in criminal cases by videoconferencing. Other than initial appearances in criminal proceedings, it is impossible to predict whether an upcoming hearing will be in-person, telephonic or by videoconference.
6. Further, on March 20, 2020, the Teton County Board of County Commissioners closed all public buildings, including the Courthouse, from March 23 through April 3, 2020. Staff in

the agencies and courts located in the Courthouse may conduct in-person business with the public by appointment only, and one case at a time. In accordance with that decision, the Teton County Sheriff's Office has locked the doors to the courthouse. A summary of the order is available at: <http://www.tetoncountywy.gov/AlertCenter.aspx?AID=Public-Access-Restricted-at-County-Build-29>

7. The court therefore shall follow the following procedures to protect the right of the press and public to attend proceedings in the Teton County Circuit Court.

ATTENDING HEARINGS BY VIDEOCONFERENCE

1. **The court invites the press to attend court hearings by videoconference.** The court asks that these requests provide as much advance notice as practicable, but the court understands that members of the press may only have limited advance notice about certain proceedings, such as an overnight arrest that results in an initial appearance by videoconference the next day.

Please contact the court by email: ccjac@courts.state.wy.us

2. **The court also invites the public to attend court hearings by videoconference.** The court asks that these requests also provide as much advance notice as practicable. However, it takes time for the clerk to gather a person's contact information and "invite" the person to attend the hearing by videoconference, and the clerk simply may not have sufficient time to accommodate all requests. In order to prioritize requests, by the public, to attend a hearing by videoconference, the request should state, in general terms, the person's interest in attending the proceeding, i.e., whether the person is:

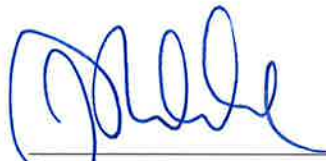
- a friend or family member of the defendant in a criminal case;
- a person who has information related to bond or bond conditions, such as information pertaining to a defendant's ties to the community or information related to community safety;
- an alleged victim in a criminal case;
- a victim advocate in criminal and protection order proceedings;
- a person recommending or providing substance abuse treatment who may have relevant information as to release terms related to offenses involving alcohol or controlled substances;

- a person recommending or providing other treatment who may have relevant information as to release terms related to offenses connected with the treatment being recommended or provided;
 - any other person who can show a special interest in the proceeding; or
 - a person who has an interest as a member of the general public.
3. Please contact the court by email: ccjac@courts.state.wy.us

ATTENDING HEARINGS IN PERSON

1. The court shall use the same standards to determine whether to permit members of the press or members of the public to appear personally at court hearings, but the court likely will be more selective in permitting personal attendance at court hearings. Further, the court shall consider the type of proceeding when deciding whether to permit in-person attendance by members of the press or public. The court may be more likely to permit personal attendance at (1) a criminal proceeding rather than a civil proceeding; and (2) at a criminal trial or sentencing rather than an initial appearance, arraignment, pretrial conference, preliminary hearing or other pretrial proceeding.
2. Please note that mandatory Covid-19 screening could bar a person's entry to the Courthouse.
3. To the extent practicable, please provide two days' notice of any such request to personally attend a court hearing.
4. Please contact the court by email: ccjac@courts.state.wy.us

DATED March 24, 2020.



James L. Radda
Circuit Court Judge

cc: Teton County Attorney by email: erin@tetoncountyattorney.com
Teton County Bar Association by email: Keeley@tetonlawyer.com
Public Defender, Teton County by email: emwt@trefonaslaw.com
Timothy C. Day, District Court Judge by email: tcd@courts.state.wy.us
Teton County Sheriff's Office, hand delivery to Deputy Mike Crook
Anne Sutton, District Court Clerk by email: asutton@tetoncountywy.gov
Probation and Parole, Jackson Field Office by fax (307) 734-5707
Jackson Police Department by fax (307) 733-3241
Wyoming Highway Patrol by fax (307) 777-3897
Teton County Department of Family Services
Teton Youth & Family Services by email: doas@tyfs.org
Board of County Commissioners, by email: commissioners@tetoncountywy.gov
Jackson Town Council, by email: council@jacksonwy.gov
Melissa Owens, Municipal Judge by email: mowens@jacksonwy.gov
Community Safety Network by email: info@csnjh.org
Victims Services by email: VictimServices@jacksonholepolice.com
Curran-Seeley Foundation by email: info@curranseeley.com
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