

State of Wyoming, County of Johnson
In the District Court of the Fourth Judicial District

FILED 4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CASE NO. _____

ORDER
REGARDING CONDUCT OF IN-PERSON BENCH TRIALS
AND ALL OTHER IN-PERSON HEARINGS

JUL 22 2020

JOHNSON COUNTY, WYOMING

Clerk of District Court

THIS MATTER, came before the Court on its own motion, pursuant to the *Order*

Adopting Temporary Plan to Address Health Risks Posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic issued by the Wyoming Supreme Court on March 18, 2020, subsequent amendments to that order, including the *Fourth Order Amending March 18, 2020 Temporary Plan to Address Health Risks Posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic* issued on June 12, 2020, ordering that no in-person trial be held until August 3, 2020. To address necessary health and safety precautions for trials and in-person hearings in the Johnson County District Court, **THE COURT HEREBY ORDERS:**

1. All individuals in the courtroom shall wear an approved face covering/mask.
2. Attorneys shall question witnesses from their respective counsel tables.
3. Attorneys shall provide each witness with the anticipated exhibits that will be used by that witness prior to the witness taking the stand.
4. While an attorney is questioning a witness, the witness and attorney may lower their mask.
5. The Court is aware that not all exhibits can be identified prior to a witness taking the stand and that occasions may arise when counsel wishes to impeach a witness with an unanticipated exhibit. In this event, the counsel shall request permission to approach the witness, with their mask properly worn, provide the witness with the exhibit and return to their table prior to removing the mask and beginning to question the witness.
6. In the event a bench conference is needed, counsel shall request permission to approach the bench. Counsel shall wear their face masks when approaching and if possible when speaking.

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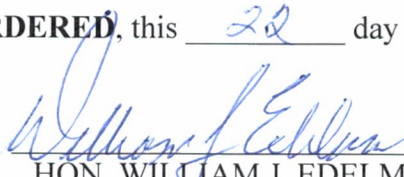
JOHNSON COUNTY, WYOMING

Clerk of District Court

Counsel shall alternate in their statements to the Court during the conference and shall use their best efforts to speak directly into the microphone located at the center of the judge's bench.

- a. If the face covering makes hearing an issue for the Court Reporter, respective counsel may remove his/her mask while speaking, and efforts shall be made to disinfect the microphone between statements.
7. Counsel shall make their best efforts to stagger when witnesses will present themselves at the courthouse, to reduce the amount of time that an individual might be required to remain in the hallway. The court is mindful that counsel cannot be perfectly accurate about this staggering procedure and will afford brief recesses if it is necessary to await the arrival of the next witness.
8. Counsel and witnesses are directed to use their best efforts to utilize the audio equipment at each station, this will permit the court reporter to obtain the clearest possible record.
9. **PUBLIC ATTENDANCE**
10. Pursuant to social distancing guidelines, members of the public, media, and/or family/friends of the parties who wish to attend a trial shall space themselves at least six feet apart. The exception to this rule is if members of the same household wish to attend together, they may sit together.
11. Due social distancing guidelines, the maximum seating capacity for public gallery is fourteen (14) persons. In the event the courtroom is occupied at that capacity, all attendees shall be required to wear an approved face covering/mask.
 - a. Counsel and parties should advise any individuals they know may want to attend that they should bring an approved face covering, so in the event more than fourteen (14) individuals are in attendance, they will be able to comply with the Court's order.
 - b. Individuals in the public area that are unwilling to wear a mask will be required to leave, and may only return with they have the proper facial covering.
12. A notice detailing the requirement to wear an approved face covering and/or mask for anyone wishing to attend a trial shall be place on the entrance to the courthouse and the courtroom

SO ORDERED, this 22 day of July, 2020.


HON. WILLIAM J. EDELMAN
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE