

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
WITHIN AND FOR SWEETWATER COUNTY, WYOMING

APR 07 2022

DONNA LEE BOBAK
CLERK OF COURT

General Operating Plan

General Order 2022-01

BY _____
DEPUTY CLEF

Courthouse: Sweetwater County Courthouse – Top Floor
Address: 80 West Flaming Gorge Way, Green River, Wyoming
Judges: Judge Richard L. Lavery
Judge Suzannah G. Robinson

This Operating Plan does not include jury trials.

This Operating Plan has been reviewed and approved by Wyoming State and Local Public Health Officials. The following measures will be implemented for all court proceedings and court business except jury trials. This Operating Plan shall be effective as of the date it is filed. However, any matters previously scheduled and set to be heard on the Microsoft Teams video conference platform shall be heard on the Microsoft Teams video conference platform even though the hearing is after the effective date of this order, unless the setting is changed by a case specific order of the Court or upon a written and filed request of the parties followed by an order of the court.

- Scheduling

Non-confidential District Court schedules are published on the Clerk of District Court's website.¹

Court proceedings shall be presumed to be held IN-PERSON unless counsel or pro se litigants are notified by the court, or a motion is made and the court grants the motion that the matter be held by Microsoft Teams Video Conferencing. A motion for a Microsoft Teams Video Conferencing hearing must be filed no less than five (5) business days prior to the

¹ https://www.sweet.wy.us/departments/clerk_of_district_court/district_court_schedule.php

scheduled hearing.

Scheduling conferences, status conferences, juvenile uncontested review hearings, and Title 25 proceedings shall be presumed to be held BY MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCING.

All participants and individuals attending or observing court proceedings held by video conference shall read and follow all guidelines given in Attachment A of this Order.

All court proceedings held in person and for other matters held on the Top Floor of the Sweetwater County Courthouse are subject to the following ORDERS OF THE COURT:

- Social Distancing

Although generally not required, social distancing may be required at the discretion of the Court, based on the circumstances which may include but are not limited to current local conditions, a request from the Sheriff's Office and/or a hearing participant's request.

- Screening

It is the **RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL counsel**, officers of the court, employees working on the top floor of the Courthouse, transport deputies and litigants to **NOTIFY THE COURT** at the earliest possible time if they, or another individual present or expected to be present for a court proceeding, has within the past 10 days tested positive for, is experiencing symptoms of, or been in close contact with another individual who has tested positive for or is presumed to be positive for COVID-19. The Court will then instruct parties how to proceed.

Court Security Deputies have the authority to deny access to persons who otherwise reasonably appear to present a health risk or fail or refuse to follow the directives for the safety measures set forth herein.

Those denied access will be provided information regarding the appropriate individual or entity to contact. If known, court security will notify the appropriate court if those denied access have a scheduled court appearance.

Court Security Deputies will set a protocol for the use of personal protective

equipment while screening.

Inmates being transported from the jail to the court building will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19. Inmates who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days, or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms shall not be transported to the court building.

- Vulnerable Populations

Vulnerable populations are individuals with a higher risk of serious illness, hospitalization or death if contracting COVID-19. Vulnerable populations include, but are not limited to, individuals have not been fully vaccinated and boosted, who are over age 65, individuals with serious underlying health conditions such as high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those with compromised immune systems, such as those undergoing chemotherapy. Individuals who fall within a vulnerable population, or have a household or family member who fall within a vulnerable population and are requesting accommodations, should contact the court in advance of the hearing to identify themselves.

- Face Coverings

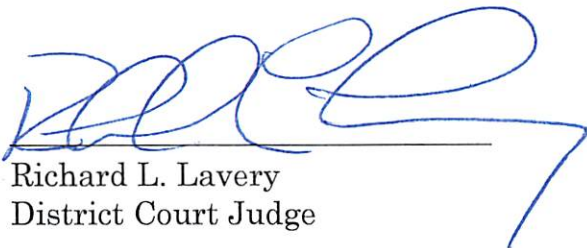
Although generally not required, face coverings may be required at the discretion of the Court, based on the circumstances which may include but are not limited to current local conditions, a request from the Sheriff's Office, and/or a hearing participant's request.

Signatures:


Dated this 7 day of April, 2022.

By the Court

By the Court



Richard L. Lavery
District Court Judge



Suzannah G. Robinson
District Court Judge