

1 HON. JAMES A. MANLEY
20th Judicial District Court
2 Lake County Courthouse
106 Fourth Avenue East
3 Polson, MT 59860
(406) 883-7250

4 **MONTANA TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, LAKE COUNTY**

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6 **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

7 **Montana 20th Judicial District Court, Dept. 1 (Judge Manley)**

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8 March 17, 2020

9 To all Lake and Sanders County Attorneys:

10 On March 13, 2020 we received guidelines from the Montana Supreme Court. At that time,
11 there were no confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus in Montana. In the next 3 days, six new cases
12 were reported. This is expected to increase significantly. Most District Courts around the state are
adopting measures to attempt to flatten the curve of the spread of the virus.

13 Until May 1, 2020, Lake and Sanders County District Court, Dept. 1 (Judge Manley) is
implementing the following measures:

- 14 **1. Avoid coming to the courthouse unless necessary.**
- 15 2. All court proceedings, other than trials, are closed to the public. Only the parties in the
16 case, their attorneys, and necessary witnesses will be allowed in the courtroom. Spectators
will not be allowed. Further directions will be posted on the courtroom door.
- 17 3. Pleadings may be filed by mail or email during this time. Email filings should be followed
18 by mail filing within 4 days. Email file at: Sanders County Clerk:
sandersdistcourt@mt.gov ; Lake County Clerk: lflicker@mt.gov or mrensvold@mt.gov
- 19 4. For criminal cases:
 - 20 a. All scheduled criminal trials are continued until May 4, 2020. All deadlines in the
21 previous Trial Setting Orders are continued 30 days. Defendants and their attorneys
22 are encouraged to waive speedy trial and stipulate to continuances. If Defendants
23 want an expedited trial, they shall file the request, and that will be accomplished if
possible.
 - 24 b. All necessary hearings and law and motion appearances will be held as before. For
25 incarcerated defendants, such matters will be done by vision net from the jail when
possible. For defendants who are not incarcerated, the matters will be held in the
26 courtroom, according to guidelines posted on the courtroom door. Requests to
handle the hearings remotely can be expected to be granted.
5. For civil cases:

All trials and hearings, scheduled for before May 1, 2020, are continued without date.
New dates will be issued when more information is available.

DATED this 17th day of March, 2020.

JAMES A. MANLEY
District Court Judge

cc: Youth Court; Lake County Sheriff's Office; Probation & Parole

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