

CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT
TINA HENRY

2020 MAR 17 PM 1:28

FILED

BY

DEPUTY

MONTANA EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CASCADE COUNTY

In re the Matter of Courthouse)
Safety, Security, and)
Effectiveness)

CAUSE NO. SB-2020- 413

**ORDER ON ELECTRONIC FILING
DURING HEALTH EMERGENCY**

On March 13, 2020, the Montana Supreme Court provided guidance consistent with guidance being issued by various public health agencies about appropriate practices during the rapidly spreading COVID-19 virus pandemic. At that time, there were no confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus in Montana. In the next 3 days, six new cases were reported. These numbers are expected to expand significantly. Most District Courts around the state are adopting measures to attempt to flatten the curve of the spread of the virus.

For the above reason, the Cascade County Clerk of Court announced, as a courtesy, that she would temporarily accept electronic filing of pleadings to accommodate the need for local lawyers and their staffs to avoid personally visiting the Cascade County Courthouse. Since that time, the numbers of pleadings, and

volume of paper, filed electronically, has been overwhelming. For this reason, the following rules apply **for the next 60 days only**:

1. Pleadings by parties or lawyers practicing **within Cascade County** (with residences and practices based in this County) **may** be filed **electronically**;
2. If a pleading is filed electronically, a **paper copy shall not be filed**;
3. **Large attachments** to pleadings shall not be emailed, and shall be sent through **regular mail**;
4. Electronic pleadings shall be emailed to **clerkofcourt.cascade@mt.gov**;
5. Cases cannot be opened via email. To open new cases, file new petitions and complaints **via regular mail**;
6. Parties and attorneys residing or with practices **located in other counties** shall file **only by mail**, not electronically;
7. Parties are expected to understand these rules and understand that the Clerk is burdening her staff to assist in providing public safety and a safe place to work.

DATED this 17th day of March, 2020.



ELIZABETH A. BEST
FOR ALL CASCADE COUNTY DISTRICT JUDGES