

MATTHEW J. CUFFE
District Court Judge

2020 MAR 19 PM 12:52

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FILED

THE MONTANA NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
LINCOLN COUNTY

APPLICABLE TO CASES

ORDER RE: TEMPORARY
RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO COVID-19

Consistent with the directives of the State of Montana and the Montana Supreme Court, this court is working diligently to limit potential exposure of members of the public, attorneys, and court staff to COVID-19. Until **May 1, 2020**, the following procedures will be put into place:

Effective IMMEDIATELY, all attorneys filing documents in cases shall email documents to 19thCOC@mt.gov or fax to (406) 283-2350 without charge. DO NOT mail the original to the court.

Effective IMMEDIATELY, all self-represented litigants filing documents shall (to the extent possible) email documents to 19thCOC@mt.gov or fax to (406) 283-2350 without charge. DO NOT mail the original to the court.

Copies of all documents filed via email or fax must still be served on the opposing party pursuant to Montana's rules of procedure.

DO NOT COME TO THE COURTHOUSE UNLESS NECESSARY

Parties should consider filing a motion to continue any non-essential hearings. If continued, these hearings will be reset for after April 30, 2020.

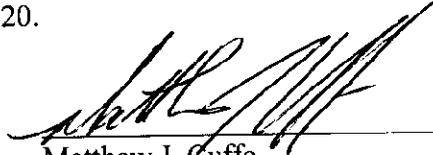
To the extent possible, participation by telephone or videoconference will be required for hearings scheduled before May 1, 2020. The parties are directed to confer with one another prior to any scheduled hearing and determine whether the hearing must be done in person or whether it can be conducted telephonically OR via video conference (the courtroom cannot accommodate telephonic and video appearances at the same time). After conferring with one another, the Plaintiff/Petitioner is directed to file a *Notice of Personal, Telephonic or Video Appearance* informing the Court how the parties will be making their appearance at the hearing. *Video appearances will be preferred to assist the Court and staff in maintaining an accurate record.*

If the parties are appearing telephonically, the parties must arrange the conference call as court has no ability to initiate multi-party calls. Please provide the court any call in numbers or utilize the court room telephone number, (406) 293-7781 ext. 2102.

If the parties are appearing via videoconference, they are directed to download the free Polycom Real Presence app. You must enter an email but skip the sign-in step. To connect to the court's virtual conference room, dial 161.7.29.142##2152047. Any questions regarding setting up a video appearance should be directed to Deb Kambel, Court Administrator, at (406) 293-8120.

Parties flexibility coordinating with the court during this time is essential. Keep in mind the primary concern is to avoid and minimize serious risks. However, litigants' resolution of legal problems is a priority and access to the courts will be maintained.

DATED this 19th day of March 2020.



Matthew J. Cuffe
District Court Judge