

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FILED  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF WYOMING  
2020 MAR 20 AM 11:44

FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

MARGARET BOTKINS, CLERK  
CHEYENNE

IN THE MATTER OF:

VACATING OF CIVIL TRIALS PRIOR  
TO JUNE 1, 2020, DUE TO PUBLIC  
SAFETY CONCERNS CAUSED BY  
THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

General Order No. 20- 02

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**GENERAL ORDER VACATING ALL CIVIL TRIALS AND IN COURT  
APPEARANCES SCHEDULED PRIOR TO JUNE 1, 2020**

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This General Order applies to all civil trials (jury and bench) scheduled in the Federal District Court for the District of Wyoming. As a result of the public health risks associated with the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19), on March 13, 2020, President Trump issued a declaration of a National Emergency. On the same day, Governor Gordon declared a state of emergency for Wyoming. The World Health Organization has declared this outbreak a global pandemic, the scope of which remains undetermined.

After carefully considering these events and the potential impact and risks created by the COVID-19 virus to the health and safety of the public, litigants, jurors and courthouse personnel, the Court finds that all civil trials scheduled prior to June 1, 2020 must be vacated, along with any final pretrial conference and associated deadlines for these cases. All other civil case deadlines, unassociated with the trial date and final

pretrial conference, shall remain in place subject to modification by the Court upon request of counsel. At this time civil trials set to be held June 1, 2020 and thereafter will continue AS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED but may be addressed by the Court on a case by case basis.

**In addition, absent a court order to the contrary, all in-person hearings scheduled in CIVIL cases between March 20, 2020 and May 31, 2020, will be held by telephone, video conference or other reliable electronic means that do not require personal appearance at the courthouse. Counsel in these cases shall contact the judge before whom the hearing is scheduled to verify the method of appearance.**

Once the Court is able to determine that the health and safety risks of COVID-19 are no longer a concern, the parties may request -- or the Court will schedule -- a status conference to reschedule a new trial setting and final pretrial conference. Therefore, it is hereby

**ORDERED** that all CIVIL TRIALS scheduled prior to June 1, 2020, are hereby **VACATED**, including the final pretrial conference and associated deadlines in those cases. All deadlines and settings unrelated to the trial and final pretrial conference shall remain, subject to modification by the Court on a case by case basis. It is

**FURTHER ORDERED** that all in-person hearings in civil cases between March 20, 2020 and May 31, 2020 will be held by telephone, video conference or other reliable means that do not require personal appearance in the Courthouse by counsel or the parties. It is

FURTHER ORDERED that upon a determination that the health and safety risks of COVID-19 are no longer a concern the Court will schedule a status conference to reschedule a new trial setting and final pretrial conference.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.



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Scott W. Skavdahl  
United States District Judge