

ORDER FOR TRANSITION FROM COVID-19 COURTHOUSE LIMITED ACCESS

1. **June 1, 2020, Order for Transition from COVID-19 Courthouse Limited Access courthouse under the “new normal”. Burleigh/Morton County District Court.**
2. **The South Central Judicial District Court is providing roadmap to attorneys and the public to explain and facilitate the transition from a closed courthouse to the reopening of the courthouses under its jurisdiction given continued concern over COVID-19. The Order for Transition will stand until modified by the Court.**
3. **All persons will be subject to COVID-19 screening prior to being allowed into the courthouse. There may be lines into the courthouse so social distancing and understanding will be needed. Attorneys need to understand being in the hallways and being in conference rooms is a problem for social distancing and cleaning. The court has attempted to stagger hearings but we do have severe choke points to enter the courthouses.**
4. **Hand sanitizer will be available in courtrooms upon entrance. For criminal cases microphones will be provided for both defendant and attorney at defense table. Cleaning items will be at the attorney tables and parties will be asked to clean the space when done for the next party.**
5. **Any proposed deviation from this Order requires counsel for a party or an individual party, if not represented to make a written request to the judge assigned to a given case and present reasons for such deviation with proper notice to opposing counsel. Otherwise Court Administration is directed to schedule consistent with this Order.**
6. **Any hardship in complying with the Order must be conveyed to the Presiding Judge by way of communication through court Administration.**

Criminal cases.

7. **Monday Preliminary hearings appearances: will continue to simply be either a waiver and plea or a request for a contested preliminary hearing. This will be set later in the week. Prelims will no longer be set with codefendants. They will be set individually.**
8. **Defendants in custody will be seen via Reliable Electronic Means (REM) under North Dakota Administrative Rule 52. No transports will be made. You may address a request for some sort of in person hearing or REM with the Judge assigned to the hearing. Understand due to COVID-19 moving prisoners around is difficult and frankly hazardous.**
9. **Felony, not in custody, revocations will be handled in person, as admissions, unless set by the Court for REM, or if the Defendant wants to contest allegations the hearing will be set in an individual time slot to allow social distancing. The hearing may be set via REM so address with the Judge at the time of the request.**
10. **1st appearances will be handled via REM under the Zoom platform. Defendants appearing will first be given information to enter the zoom appearance, if they are unable to access via a data phone or computer, either a tablet will be made available or they will be seen in person.**
11. **Order To Show Cause misdemeanor revocations hearings will be handled via REM under the zoom platform. Same as 4 above.**

Civil cases

12. Evictions will be handled via telephone REM or in the future Zoom. This will continue until further notice of the court.
13. Guardianships will be handled via REM.
14. Mental Health will be handled via REM unless objected to under NDAdmR52.
15. Domestic Violence Protection Orders, Disorderly Conduct Protection Orders, Small Claims Hearings will be handled via REM.
16. Juvenile Court hearings will be handled via REM until further notice.
17. Court Trials are set as in person with the SCJD SOP issued previously by the Court. The Court **MAY** require REM for these hearings and parties may request the hearing judge to have the hearing held via REM.

May 26, 2020

Bruce A. Romanick

Bruce Romanick, Presiding Judge

Douglas A. Bahr

Douglas Bahr, District Judge

Daniel J Borgen

Daniel Borgen, District Judge

Cynthia M Feland

Cynthia Feland, District Judge

Bruce A. Romanick

for John Grinsteiner, District Judge

James S. Hill

James Hill, District Judge

Pamela Nesvig

Pamela Nesvig, District Judge

David E Reich

David Reich, District Judge

Bruce A. Romanick

Bobbi Weiler

For Thomas Schneider, District Judge

Bobbi Weiler, District Judge