



SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

MORROW & UMATILLA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURTS

216 SE 4th STREET

PENDLETON, OR 97801

541-278-0341

Email: 6th.district@ojd.state.or.us

HON. DANIEL J. HILL
Presiding Judge

ROY N. BLAINE
Trial Court Administrator

July 28, 2020

RE: IN PERSON APPEARANCES IN JUVENILE, CIVIL AND FAMILY LAW MATTERS.

This communication is to clarify that Hermiston Courtroom 4 and Pendleton Courtroom 2 are now allowing in-person appearances. Attorneys NO LONGER need to request in-person appearances. However, both courtrooms will still allow and encourage telephonic hearings. Please email the JA of the courtroom and advise whether you will be calling or appearing in person. The courtrooms have three phonelines or we can use Webex telephone conferencing. If we have more than 3 callers, the JA will need to arrange a conference call. You must coordinate with us in advance for us to set up the conference call.

IN PERSON APPEARANCE:

If you choose to appear in person, please familiarize yourself with the Governor's orders and the Presiding Judge's orders regarding wearing of masks and social distancing. Courtrooms have been arranged to allow 6-foot social distancing between all persons. Witnesses and observers may be asked to participate from another room by video conferencing or by telephone if the courtroom is full. When a witness is called, the witness will then be allowed to enter the courtroom and take the stand.

Witnesses appearing remotely will generally appear by direct telephone line to the courtroom. Spectators will generally be allowed to listen to proceedings via conference call or by video from another location.

ALL WITNESS LISTS AND EXHIBITS MUST BE IN THE COURT FILE 24 HOURS PRIOR TO HEARING:

- a. The requirement to file all exhibits at least 24 hours prior to hearing remains in effect for all cases. Because the court is often unable to discern whether parties will appear by phone or in person in advance of hearing, all exhibits must be filed and accessible to all parties prior to hearing. This means exhibits must be filed with the court and emailed to all parties. To ensure your exhibits are timely processed and entered into the court file 24 hours in advance, it is most prudent to file them 3 to 4 days in advance. A significant number of court employees have been placed on temporary furlough and you should anticipate some delays in the processing of documents.
- b. Witness lists shall be filed 24 hours prior to any hearing or trial, and all updates thereto immediately when known. Witness lists may also be emailed directly to the courtroom email or judicial assistant.
- c. Any witness to appear remotely shall be identified on the witness list with their phone number if to be called remotely. Ordinarily, counsel and court will call the witness when

ready. The witness must be ready when called.

- d. Any witness needing an interpreter or other accommodation shall be identified on the witness list. The party calling the witness must follow all procedures for requesting telephonic testimony, and for interpreters and accommodations as this does not constitute an approval or application for assistance.
- e. Witnesses appearing telephonically will be connected on the court telephone line and shall not call in on the conference line for spectators without being directed to do so. Witnesses who call in on the conference line without authority may be prohibited from testifying.

JUVENILE DEPENDENCY HEARINGS:

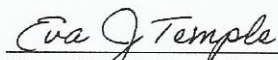
In both courtrooms, the courts will continue to use the AG's conferencing line for all juvenile dependency hearings to ensure that all parties may participate by phone or in person. However, any party may appear in person. Please follow procedures set forth above for exhibits and witnesses. Please advise the court if you or any of your witnesses will be appearing in person.

COURTROOM 4 DOCKET

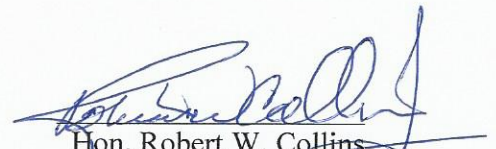
Because all criminal jury trials will be held in Courtroom 5, Courtroom 4 may be unavailable for in person hearings. If Courtroom 5 has a felony jury trial, it will require both courtrooms, both jury rooms and the Doherty conference room to house a 30 to 50-person jury panel until the jury has been selected. Therefore, many family law and civil trials may be rescheduled or held telephonically. We will keep most cases on the docket and will advise you the week before your trial if we believe there will be a criminal jury trial. We have devised a way to hold telephonic hearings on the record from chambers during the times when courtroom 4 is occupied by jurors. If you believe your hearing or trial can be held by telephone, then we will hold the hearing and avoid rescheduling.

Obviously, the space requirements for safe social distancing creates challenges for jury trials. We will probably not be holding civil jury trials in the near future due to the priority of criminal matters.

Sincerely,



Hon. Eva J. Temple
Chief Civil Judge



Hon. Robert W. Collins
6th District Judge

EJT:rb

cc: 6th District Judges