

The Custer County Courthouse will begin allowing restricted access by appointment on May 11, 2020. For the next few months, attorneys and the public should continue to conduct as much business as possible remotely. The Court Clerk will continue to accept email filings. Many matters may be conducted by video conference.

Preliminary Hearing Conferences:

Beginning May 22, 2020, and until further notice, PHC's will occur on Fridays at 9:00 a.m. with a modified format. Attorneys will conference with the DA in a location to be designated by the District Attorney. Attorneys should wait in the hall until an ADA is available.

DEFENDANTS will wait in their car or on the front lawn of the courthouse.

Announcements on all matters with Defendants **on bond** will be made in the sally port located on the East side of the courthouse. There will be separate tables for the Judge, DA's office, and defense counsel. Defendants will wait outside for their case to be called. Defendants will enter the sally port area from the south, and exit to the north. The Public may view proceedings from the door. Lawn chairs may be appropriate. In the event of inclement weather, encourage your clients to wait in the car and bring an umbrella.

In-custody defendants will appear by Skype from the jail with attorneys in the courtroom.

Attorneys are expected to complete paperwork prior to the case being called. The hallway door to the form area will be open to access court forms. If you want to enter a felony plea, contact the Court in advance to schedule a court reporter.

Only attorneys will be allowed in the courthouse unless prior arrangements have been made.

Additional notes:

- ** Everyone entering the Courthouse (including attorneys) must wear a mask.
- ** Please inform your clients to wear a mask. For your protection and your client, both the attorney and client should wear a mask when talking and/or filling out paperwork.
- ** If you or your client are high-risk, please contact a judge for accommodation.
- ** A clip board and cheap disposable pens will help facilitate paperwork.
- ** Unless it becomes a problem, no coat or tie is required for PHC's during this time.

Finally, please note that gathering in the judge's office/jury rooms will not be possible. If you need to come in and discuss a matter with a judge, stop at the door and wait for further instructions. We do not like this anymore than you, but it is simply what we have to do for the safety of our staff. Empty courtrooms are available for your use. Please call if you have any questions or concerns.