

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

**THE STATE OF NEBRASKA     )     MS20-13**  
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The District Court Judges have been carefully monitoring the evolving circumstances presented by the spread of the novel coronavirus and the COVID-19 disease, and

Whereas, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 disease, the Novel Coronavirus, a pandemic. The Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court issued an Administrative Order on March 12, 2020 setting forth procedures of the Judicial Branch with respect to the Novel Coronavirus and COVID-19 disease. On March 13, 2020, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts issued an Emergency Declaration for COVID-19. On March 13, 2020 President Donald Trump declared a National State of Emergency. On March 16, 2020, Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird issued a local Emergency Declaration due to the Novel Coronavirus and COVID-19;

Whereas, the State of Nebraska, County of Lancaster and City of Lincoln are, or soon will be, experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak via community transmission;

Whereas, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Federal Government and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advise that to mitigate the spread of the illness, social gatherings in groups of 10 or more are to be avoided, that social distancing of more than 6 feet should be practiced and that people should avoid congregating in enclosed spaces;

Whereas, many people have chronic medical conditions which make them especially vulnerable to the severe consequences of COVID-19. All efforts should be utilized to mitigate the exposure and spreading of the illness;

Whereas, given the current public safety concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court finds that court hearings can be conducted safely electronically via video and teleconference; and

WHEREAS, public access to the Courts is vital to the operation of the judiciary.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that the District Court will be open to conduct proceedings, however, until further notice all hearings will be conducted via video or teleconference only.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE DISTRICT COURT** that until further notice and unless and otherwise ordered by the Assigned judge, the opportunity by members of the public and the media to observe courtroom proceedings will be made available upon request in advance to the Media Coordinator listed on the Supreme Court website.

Dated this 23rd day of March 2020.

BY THE COURTS:



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Honorable Kevin R. McManaman, Presiding Judge