

IN THE DISTRICT COURTS OF BOX BUTTE, DAWES, SHERIDAN, SIOUX AND
GRANT COUNTIES, NEBRASKA

RE: IN THE MATTER OF MAINTAINING)
OPERATIONS DURING THE NOVEL)
CORONAVIRUS and COVID-19) **ORDER**
DISEASE RESTRICTIONS)

The judicial branch continues to monitor the public health considerations as these change on a daily basis, in an attempt to adjust court operations to comply with potential courthouse closings and limitations of the number of people who are allowed to safely gather in a public place. In an effort to comply with these restrictions and limitations, the Court instructs, notifies, and orders as follows:

1. All jury trials, both civil and criminal, shall be continued for at least sixty (60) days:

A. With regard to civil jury trials, these will be continued to a further date, after consultation with counsel, by Order of the Court;

B. With regard to criminal jury trials, the defendants shall be asked to waive their constitutional right to a speedy trial. In the event such right is waived, the jury trial will be continued until further order of the Court. In the event such right is not waived, the Court shall conduct a hearing, to be attended by essential persons only, for the purpose of determining if the jury trial should be continued for good cause, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 29-1207(4)(f) (Reissue 2016).

2. Trials to the bench shall proceed as scheduled.

3. Arraignment hearings shall be performed by way of written form, advising each defendant his or her constitutional and statutory rights, allowing the defendant to confirm his understanding of the general nature of the charges filed and the possible penalties, and allowing a written plea of not guilty. A status conference shall then be set in two months, at which the defendant may participate in person or by telephone conference.

4. All other matters will be handled on a case-by-case basis and communication with the Court and Court staff is hereby requested by all persons wishing to do business with the Court.

I ask for your cooperation and patience as we all work together to get through this difficult time.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis P. O'Gorman", is written over a horizontal line.

Travis P. O'Gorman, District Judge