### NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release March 31, 2020

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# Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court Trials and Evidentiary Hearings in April

The Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court has issued an Order stating trials and evidentiary hearings scheduled in April 2020 will be conducted by video or telephonic conference unless special permission is granted by the trial judge upon written motion by any party.

Moving to video or telephonic conferences for the next 30 days will allow the court to continue providing access to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining the health and safety of litigants, attorneys, witnesses, court reporters, interpreters, and court staff.

Court staff will assist all parties in setting up video and telephonic conferences and the attached "Video Trial / Hearing Tips" flyer will be available in the Legal Practice and Filing Tips section of our website (http://www.wcc.ne.gov) to help the parties understand the basic concepts and tools needed to participate in a video trial or evidentiary hearing.

Attorneys who will not be ready to proceed with their trials or evidentiary hearings in April should file the appropriate motions or stipulations to continue as soon as possible. No decision has been made on how trials and evidentiary hearings in May could be affected, but video and telephonic conferences remain possible alternatives.

#### IN THE NEBRASKA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT

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IN RE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS AND COVID-19 DISEASE	) ) )	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE NEBRASKA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT
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The Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court is instituting the following Order to ensure continuity of operations within this Court while complying with directives from local, state, and federal governments and protecting the public safety by mitigating the public health impact of the Coronavirus/COVID-19.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all trials and evidentiary hearings for the month of April 2020 will be conducted by video teleconference or by telephone unless, upon written motion by any party, special permission is granted by the trial judge to proceed in person. This Order is entered to supplement and in conjunction with the Administrative Order of Chief Justice Heavican dated March 12, 2020.

Dated this 31st day of March, 2020.

Daniel R. Fridrich Presiding Judge

Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court



#### Joining a video trial is easy:

- Easy access. We will send you a link; click the link to join.
- Room for everyone. Up to 100 can join.
- Saves money for everyone. The video software is free and there are no travel costs.

### Tools you will need:

- A computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. These tools must have a **camera and microphone**. Most smartphones have these.
- An Internet connection.
- A quiet location.
- Access to Google Meet (<a href="https://meet.google.com/">https://meet.google.com/</a>). If you use a smartphone, install the Google Meet app. We can use Zoom if needed (<a href="https://zoom.us/">https://zoom.us/</a>).

#### For Attorneys:

- Attorneys must email exhibits to the judge's assistant 24 hours before the trial start time.
- Attorneys must send exhibits to the witnesses before the trial start time.
- Attorneys can contact the Clerk of the Court to set up a test run. The Clerk will need to know the number of those joining the conference.
- The parties should be prepared to stipulate to the judge swearing-in witnesses remotely.
- The court reporter will work from the location of the judge when possible.

## **Questions?**

Contact the Clerk of the Court:

• Email: <a href="https://www.wcc.ne.gov/home/contact-us">https://www.wcc.ne.gov/home/contact-us</a>

• Phone: 800-599-5155 or 402-471-6468