

SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
(La Plata, San Juan, and Archuleta Counties)

Administrative Order No. 2020-19

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RESTRICTING PERSONAL APPEARANCES FOR LA PLATA COUNTY
COURT AND PROBATION PURPOSES

Considering the sustained increase in the State of Colorado and La Plata County of COVID-19 infections rates and the fact that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has recently categorized La Plata County as experiencing a severe public health risk from COVID-19 requiring further limitations on indoor gatherings and meetings, the Court orders that all of the Administrative Orders regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic currently in effect are supplemented by the following order:

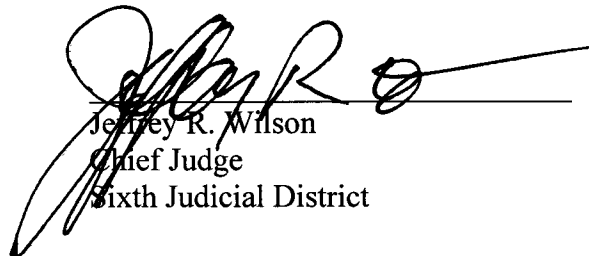
Effective November 20, 2020 and continuing until further order of the Chief Judge, the courts, and the probation offices in La Plata County, shall conduct as much of their operations that usually involve the appearance of counsel or the public as possible by remote means such as by telephone, Webex or other electronic means.

Each presiding judge shall have discretion to determine which hearings or court trials shall be heard in person, however, in no event will the presiding judge allow more than eight persons, including security and court staff to be present at any one time in the courtrooms of Division 1, 2, 5 and 6; nine persons in the Division 3 courtroom; and, thirteen persons in the Division 4 courtroom.

The clerks' offices and probation office shall reduce in-person staffing as necessary to comply with the new in-person staffing limitations required by La Plata County being classified as experiencing a severe public health risk from COVID -19. The attorneys and the public are encouraged to communicate with court staff via email or telephone to avoid any unnecessary personal appearances at the La Plata County Courthouse.

This order currently applies only to court and probation operations in La Plata County. Should Archuleta and/or San Juan County be reclassified by CDPHE as experiencing a severe public health risk from COVID-19, this order will be extended to include court and probation operations in those counties.

SO ORDERED this 18th day of November, 2020.



Jeffrey R. Wilson
Chief Judge
Sixth Judicial District

cc: SWC Bar Association
Judges and Magistrates, 6th Judicial District
PD
DA