

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTIES OF LINCOLN AND OTERO
TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF COURTROOM
ATTENDANCE, TARDINESS,
DRESS CODE AND DECORUM

No. D-1215-MS-2021-2
No. D-1226-MS-2021-2

ORDER

WHEREAS, the Twelfth Judicial District Court Judges have experienced an increased number of cases in which attorneys fail to appear to scheduled hearings or appear late to scheduled hearings;

WHEREAS, the Twelfth Judicial District Court Judges have experienced an increased number of cases in which attorneys who are standing in for, or providing coverage for, other attorneys have come to Court unprepared and unable to proceed with the scheduled hearing requiring the Court to reset the hearing, which needlessly wastes valuable court time and resources;

WHEREAS, courtroom matters, including hearings conducted remotely through telephonic and/or audio-video connection, require an element of formality that is reflected in proper courtroom attire, and that the Twelfth Judicial District Court Judges have experienced an increased number of attorneys, parties, witnesses and members of the public who appear in court for hearings not appropriately dressed for court;

WHEREAS, courtroom matters, including hearings conducted remotely through telephonic and/or audio-video connection, require an element of formality that is reflected in proper courtroom decorum, and the Twelfth Judicial District Court Judges have experienced an increased number of attorneys, parties, witnesses and members of the public who are failing to display appropriate courtroom decorum;

WHEREAS, the Twelfth Judicial District Court Judges have been conducting remote hearings through telephonic and/or audio-video connection for over eighteen (18) months, but continue to have to direct the attorneys and parties on how to connect to, mute, unmuted and otherwise conduct a remote hearing through google meet, zoom or other remote audio visual platform causing unnecessary delay in the proceedings and expenditure of court resources and time;

WHEREAS, the Twelfth Judicial District Court Judges have an obligation to maintain the decorum and dignity of the Court and provide for the timely adjudication of cases;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that all attorneys of record are ordered to appear to Court on time for all scheduled hearings;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all attorneys who agree to cover a hearing for another attorney are ordered to be prepared to proceed on the merits of the scheduled hearing;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that attorneys shall appear to all hearings, including those hearings held remotely through telephonic and/or audio-video connection, dressed in professional business attire (e.g. coat and necktie or bolo tie, pants suit, dress, etc.);

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all parties, witnesses and members of the public who appear in court shall be addressed appropriately for all court proceedings, including those hearings held remotely through telephonic and/or audio-video connection. No person shall appear in court unless wearing a shirt, long pants, dress (or skirt) or other appropriate attire. No person shall wear shorts, tank tops, halter tops, muscle shirts, sweat pants, or anything exposing the midriffs or underwear. Hats, ball caps and sunglasses shall be removed prior to the hearing. Attorneys shall be responsible for notifying their clients and witnesses of this obligation.

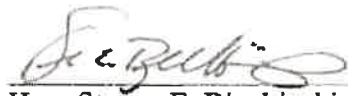
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all attorneys, parties, witnesses and members of the public who appear in court, including those hearings held remotely through telephonic and/or audio-video connection, shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with maintaining the proper decorum and dignity of the proceedings and respect for the Court. For hearings held remotely through telephonic and/or audio-video connection, no attorney shall appear in more than one (1) hearing at a time. Attorneys, parties, and witnesses shall appear from a location that is quiet, free from distractions, and consistent with the environment of a courtroom. No person shall appear to a hearing while operating a motor vehicle. No person shall walk around or move around excessively during the hearing. No person shall speak to other people during the hearing except for attorney-client communications or the person receives permission of the Court. No person shall appear while chewing gum, smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages, or otherwise engage in behavior that is disruptive of the proceedings;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all attorneys shall instruct and prepare their clients in advance of the hearing for the purpose of ensuring their ability to participate by google meet, zoom or other remote audio visual platform in the hearing without assistance from the Court or Court staff.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all attorneys, parties, witnesses and members of the public who appear in court, including those hearings held remotely through telephonic and/or audio-video connection, shall, in advance of the hearing educate themselves for the purpose of ensuring their ability to participate by google meet, zoom or other remote audio visual platform in the hearing without assistance from the Court or Court staff.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any person who is found to have violated this order may be held in contempt of Court subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 or a period of incarceration up to 364 days or both.

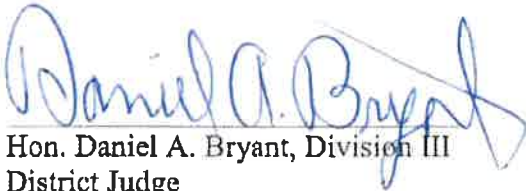
IT IS SO ORDERED.



Hon. Steven E. Blankinship, Division I
District Judge



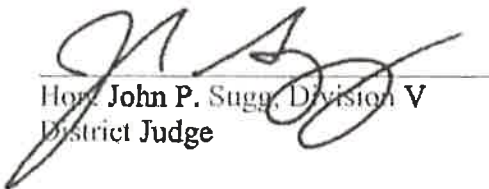
Hon. Ellen R. Jessen, Division II
District Judge



Hon. Daniel A. Bryant, Division III
District Judge



Hon. Angie K. Schneider, Division IV
Chief District Judge



Hon. John P. Sugg, Division V
District Judge