



SANDERS COUNTY JUSTICE COURT

Hon. Douglas S. Dryden
Justice of the Peace

MEMORANDUM

3-30-22

TO: Office of Public Defender and all other Defense Attorneys appearing in Sanders County Justice Court

FROM: Judge Dryden

SUBJECT: Justice Court policy on appearance of Defendants and Attorneys

The Covid-19 epidemic of 2020 - 2022 is waning and so it is time to return to “normal” and to state what the policies/expectations of this Court are in reference to defense attorney in person appearances as well as the defendants / clients who you represent.

It is the policy of this court that defense attorneys and defendants must appear in person for all OMNI Hearings, Jury Trial Confirmation Hearings, Change of Pleas, Evidentiary Hearings, or any other hearings which the defendant must attend. I will remain open to considering zoom or telephonic appearances of attorneys for special occasions when appropriate, but this will not be the norm and will not be for reasons of convenience alone.

If as an attorney of record for a defendant, you need to appear telephonically for an OMNI hearing, you must request permission from the Court well ahead of the hearing and have OMNI Forms filled out, signed, and filed at least two days prior to the hearing. In addition, the Court expects that you will have met with your client within one week prior to the OMNI Hearing. OMNI forms are being sent with discovery from the County attorney’s office.

All motions including motions to appear telephonically or by zoom must be filed with the Court so that Justice Court has a paper trail in the file. Motions and other paperwork may be filed electronically to the Court.

Hon, Douglas S. Dryden
Sanders County Justice of the Peace

Jeff Lundberg
Court Clerk

Carl Marquardt
Court Clerk

Tristan Franck
Court Clerk