

**IN THE CROW TRIBAL COURT
IN AND FOR THE APSAALOOKE NATION**

In Re:

UPDATED COVID-19 OPERATIONS
PLAN FOR CROW TRIBAL COURT

Standing Order No. 2021-001

Chief Judge Dennis M. Bear Don't Walk

This Order is being issued after thoroughly considering a number of important factors, including, but not limited to: the increased number of people receiving the COVID-19 vaccine(s), the decreased number of new COVID-19 cases in the community and around the State of Montana, the need for the public to more freely enjoy access to justice, and the need for the Crow Tribal Court to take measures that will help protect its staff and the public from the risk of contracting COVID-19.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, effective today, Wednesday, June 2, 2021, the Crow Tribal Court shall re-open its doors to the public and resume normal operations, with the following temporarily ongoing limitations:

1. **Face Masks & Social Distancing**: Face coverings and six-feet of separation between people are still required for staff and the public while in the courtrooms, meetings with Probation, and at the front desk.
 - a. Judges have the discretion to determine otherwise during any hearing in which he/she is presiding.
 - b. Masks shall be made available upon request.
2. **Crowds Prohibited**: The number of people appearing in Court and the Administrative building is limited as follows:
 - a. **Courtrooms**:
 - i. Generally, only parties, legal counsel, and other officers (e.g.-guardian ad litem, interpreters, etc.) will be allowed in the courtrooms for all hearings.

- ii. No additional family members or friends may accompany parties, unless authorized by the presiding judge, upon showing of good cause, on the record.
- iii. Witnesses must remain outside until called in to testify.
- iv. Exceptions:
 - 1. Minors shall be accompanied by their parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
 - 2. During adult arraignments and/or pre-trial hearings, wherein incarcerated defendants are transported to the Court by the BIA-OJS Rocky Mountain Regional Detention Facility, all defendants who are scheduled to appear may enter at once but must be seated no less than six-feet apart from one another.

b. Front Desk:

- i. Only one person, family unit, or group shall be allowed to enter the front desk area at a time.
- ii. Others must line up outside and wait for their turn to enter.
- iii. Any family or friend who accompanies a person to the Court but does not need to be present in the building should be asked to wait outside.

3. **Illness**: Anyone who has a fever or is experiencing any other signs of illness may not appear in the courtroom or at the front desk, and shall timely contact the Court at 406-638-7400 or info@crowtribalcourts.org to reschedule or make other arrangements for filing or payment.

4. **Hand Sanitizing**: Hand Sanitizing stations are available to the public at the Front Desk and in Courtrooms. All parties are required to sanitize their hands prior to entering the courtroom or approaching the front desk.

5. **Jury Duty**:

- a. Jurors must be spaced six-feet away from one another when empaneled, and must observe social distancing at all other times while in the courtroom or administrative building.

- b. All jurors defined by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as “at-risk” shall be released from reporting for jury duty upon request made by such juror by phone call to the court.
 - i. This includes anyone over the age of 60, or those who have underlying chronic health conditions.
- c. Jurors who timely report they are feeling ill shall also be dismissed.

6. **Electronic service and signatures:**

- a. All parties are encouraged to provide written consent to electronic service.
- b. Electronic filing remains authorized, pursuant to the Crow Rules of Civil Procedure and Crow Tribal Court Rules of Practice.
- c. Electronic signatures remain authorized in lieu of handwritten signatures, including signatures required to be on Affidavits or Written Declarations, provided that:
 - i. All documents signed electronically must contain the following declaration:
“I declare under penalty of perjury and the laws of the Crow Tribe that the foregoing is true and correct.”
 - ii. The format for electronic signatures used shall be: *“/s/ First Name Last Name”*
 - iii. WARNING: A deliberate falsification in any declaration made pursuant to this section constitutes the offense of Perjury as provided in CLOC § 8B-7-201 and is punishable as the offense of false swearing as provided in CLOC § 8B-7-202. A declaration under penalty of perjury executed in accordance with any provision of this code is not limited to the official proceedings referenced in § 8B-7-201.

7. This order shall be effective until modified by subsequent order of the Chief Judge.

8. The Court Administrator shall transmit a copy of this order to the heads of the Executive and Legislative Branches, Crow Tribal Prosecutor’s Office, BIA Crow Agency Superintendent, BIA-OJS Crow Agency Police Department, BIA-OJS RMRDF, and shall post a copy on the Tribal Court website under “Public Notices”.

SO ORDERED, DONE, and DATED THIS 2nd DAY OF JUNE 2021.

By:



Hon. Dennis M. Bear Don't Walk
Chief Judge, Crow Tribal Court