

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

In Re:

COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED
BY COVID-19 AND RELATED NOVEL
CORONAVIRUS.

Standing Order No. 22-003

Chief Judge Myra Left Hand

This Order is issued in response to the recent and rapidly progressing worldwide outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). COVID 19 was declared by the World Health Organization as a global pandemic. To date, COVID-19 continues to spread with two major variants, Delta and Omicron. Omicron is highly transmissible and eludes the immune response to the prior Delta variant.

In response to Omicron variant spreading at a fast rate within the Crow Reservation, and after thoroughly considering important factors, including the increasing number of positive COVID-19 cases in the Crow community and surrounding areas, and the need to keep the staff safe to operate,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that effective Wednesday, July 27, 2022, the Judicial Branch Crow Tribal Court staff shall resume normal regular hours and operate with the following ongoing limitations to the public:

1. All travel on official Judicial Branch business without prior authorization of the Chief Judge is hereby suspended until further notice.
2. All Judicial Branch staff shall follow CDC-recommended safety guidelines to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the Judicial Branch workplaces.

3. If any staff member develops symptoms that fall within the CDC protocols, such staff member shall stay home and shall not return to the workplace without a negative COVID-19 test.
4. This order shall be effective until modified by subsequent order of the Chief Judge.
5. The Court Administrator shall transmit a copy of this order to the heads of the Executive and Legislative Branches, the Crow Tribal Prosecutor's Office, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Crow Agency Superintendent, the BIA-OJS Crow Agency Police Department, BIA-OJS RMRDF, and shall post copy on the Tribal Court website under "Public Notices."
6. Since the Crow Tribal Courts will remain open, it will be limited to its operations:
 - a. Emergency Civil Petitions for Temporary Orders of Protection.
 - b. Emergency No-Contact Orders and Orders of Protection in Criminal matters shall continue to be processed by Law Enforcement, the Tribal Prosecutor, and the Criminal Court Judge, as identified in Title 8E of the Crow Law and Order Code.
7. All civil matters scheduled for in-court appearance, is limited to only parties, legal counsel, and other officers (e.g.-guardians ad litem, interpreters, etc.) will be allowed in the courtrooms for all hearings.
8. This does not affect any hearings on Orders of Protection, Temporary Restraining Orders, or Child Custody matters.
9. Criminal Court: Adult arraignments shall resume in court appearance between the court and Rocky Mountain Regional Detention Center at the normally scheduled times, unless otherwise scheduled by the Criminal Court Judge.
 - a. The Court buildings will be locked at all times.

- b. Generally, only parties, legal counsel, and other officers will be allowed in the courtrooms for all hearings.
 - c. A bailiff will be posted near the main doors to assist with entry in the courts.
 - d. No public access to spectators in the courtrooms for any hearings. If you are not a party to the matter, you will not be allowed to enter the building.
 - e. No additional family members or friends may accompany parties, unless authorized by the presiding judge.
 - f. Witness must remain outside until called in to testify.
10. Jury Duty: All jurors must be spaced six feet away from one another. When empaneled and must always observe social distancing while in the courtroom or in the Administration building.
11. Juvenile Court: All juvenile matters scheduled for in-court will resume regular hours.
- a. This does not apply to:
 - i. Juvenile Detention hearings, which shall be conducted via video conference between the Court and the Youth Detention Center in Busby, Montana, at the normally scheduled times, unless otherwise scheduled by the Juvenile Court Judge.
 - ii. Emergency Child Protection hearings, upon petition filed by the Crow Tribe on behalf of Social Services.
 - iii. Critical Review hearings which shall be scheduled and heard on a case-by-case basis, as determined necessary by the Juvenile Court Judge.
12. This order shall be effective until further notice unless extended or modified by further order of the Court.

DONE and DATED this 27th day of July 2022.

By: 
HONORABLE MYRA LEFT HAND
Chief Judge, Crow Tribe Judicial Branch