



# Fourth Judicial Circuit Court

**Michelle K. Comer**  
Circuit Court Judge

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**Sandra Semerad**  
Court Reporter

June 22, 2020

Dear Auditor McGruder:

We have 3 jury trials scheduled in July, 2020 and several in August and September. Due to Covid-19, we are required to observe State Health Rules, CDC and World Health Organization recommendations for accommodating groups of people. This includes social distancing as well as use of personal protective equipment.

A standard jury panel is comprised of approximately 75 people. Our courtrooms are not large enough to provide the appropriate social distance to that number of people. The Deadwood Mountain Grand has acceptable facilities to accommodate us. The cost is \$250 for a morning of jury selection. They would set up the chairs and tables. They also have a speaker system.

We considered alternatives that may cost less such as the Lead Deadwood High School auditorium and Black Hills State University. However, then we run into juror issues such as notification, directions, travel and parking to name a few. Not to mention school will be starting in August.

Scheduled jury trials often end up resolving without the need for trial however we need to be prepared in the event they don't. Thank you so much for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Judge Michelle Comer  
4<sup>th</sup> Circuit Judge